Hafa Adai!

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'Limited hiring prolongs hospital's emergency status' PAGE 3

Bill eyes renaming Rota school after Dr. Rita Inos. PAGE 7

Suspected pedophile arrested

Three boys allegedly abused at Internet cafe

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Doyle

Police arrested Monday a suspected pedophile who allegedly sexually abused three boys in exchange for money at an Internet shop on Saipan.

RELATED NEWS
2 men arrested for alleged sex abuse of minors. PAGE 6

Mark Thomas Doyle, 45, was arrested on two counts of sexual assault in the first degree and two counts of sexual assault in the second degree.

Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed yesterday a cash bail of $100,000 for Doyle's temporary release. Govendo also barred Doyle from going to Internet shops,

See SUSPECTED on Page 4

NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Students of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque perform their school chant during a ribbon cutting ceremony for the two new buildings with nine classrooms on campus yesterday morning. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov.Eloy S. Inos, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and other government officials, parents and educators took part in the unveiling of the over $836,000 worth of construction project. ***See story on Page 5.***

USCIS to start accepting H-1B petitions on April 1

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

ON THE NET
www.uscis.gov

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced yesterday that it will begin accepting H-1B petitions for Fiscal Year 2011 on April 1, 2010, with the CNMI and Guam exempted from the numerical cap until Dec. 31, 2014 under the federalization law.

U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act applied federal immigration law to the CNMI effective Nov.

See USCIS on Page 4

Garapan family gets free energy-efficient appliances

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A family in Garapan had their old appliances replaced with new and energy-efficient ones for free, thanks to a federally funded energy program that is expected to benefit at least eight more families this month.

Concepcion Kus, 70, said she's thankful that her household now has a new and free refrigerator, two window-type air-condi-

See GARAPAN on Page 4

Garapan resident Concepcion Kus, seated, is flanked by government officials led by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from left, during a turnover of an energy-efficient refrigerator and other appliances to the Kus residence in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Feds want lower payment for the use of prison for federal detainees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said yesterday that the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement wants to pay the CNMI government a lower rate for the use of the $20.9-million adult prison facility in Susupe for federal detainees.

See FEDS on Page 4

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to participate in the 24th Annual Red Cross Walkathon on Saturday, March 27?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Oldest People
Two of the oldest people in the world have died on the same day.

NATION...Page 14

Condom Fight
Philippine health workers hit the streets of Manila to hand out roses and condoms to passers-by.

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Newfound Fame

American bomb disposal experts say few people understand what they do. Not any more.

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Local

Fitial revises budget to $137M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked lawmakers to pass an austerity bill that would close government offices for one day every pay day and during all remaining legal holidays in Fiscal Year 2010, as he signed yesterday a memorandum reducing the budget authority from $150 million to $137 million in FY 2010.

"I sent a memorandum to both the [House] speaker and Senate president, advising them that I have reduced resources for the fiscal year by about $13 million. We are looking at a reduced budget authority for the given fiscal year," Fitial told reporters yesterday morning.

The House Ways and Means Committee recommended passage of Rep. Ramon Basa's austerity bill, but the House rescheduled yesterday's session to Thursday morning.

Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said his House Bill 17-27 could easily pass the 20-member House if all the 12 members of his committee vote "yes" to the austerity measure.

Fitial said the Legislature's failure to pass the austerity bill could result in over $10 million in budget deficit.

"The Legislature needs to pass austerity measures; otherwise, we'll end up with more than $10 million in deficit," he told reporters.

He, however, said that the administration will not push for layoffs and furloughs, given the difficulty of applying them on civil service employees.

Basa's austerity bill does not apply to constitutionally protected positions such as the governor, lieutenant governor, lawmakers, judges and justices, but encourages them to voluntary reduce their monthly salaries by 10 percent and revert the savings to the general fund.

"For your information, since we had austerity, I never came out of it. I'm still donating 10 percent of my salary back to the general fund," Fitial added.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) separately said yesterday that the governor's revision of the budget authority came as no surprise to the Senate.

"All along, we knew this was coming," he said, referring to the weak economy, reduced revenue, and expenditures going up, including medical referral costs.

The Senate also rescheduled its Friday morning session on Saipan to Friday afternoon on Rota.

The austerity bill calls for an eight-hour reduction in government work hours per pay period, from 80 to 72. This will be further reduced to 64 work hours per pay period if there is a legal holiday.

Each payroll costs the government $280,000.

Sasamoto is new CPA comptroller

Commonwealth Ports Authority deputy comptroller Derek Sasamoto was promoted to comptroller after a special meeting by the agency's board of directors on Monday.

The decision to elevate Sasamoto to the position that was left vacant by recently retired Frances Mafnas was reached after the board's personnel committee determined that he was the most qualified among the three candidates that applied for the job.

Describing him as an asset to CPA, board chair Jose Lifoifoi said that Sasamoto will be able to help the agency address the requirements of both its airport and seaport bond indenture. A permanent comptroller on board is among the key requirements in meeting the bond indenture agreements.

Prior to working for CPA, Sasamoto was employed by the Office of the Public Auditor where he conducted audits on CPA books and studied CPA's airport and seaport financial obligations as well as seaport bond.

Since the resignation of former comptroller George Palican in 2007, CPA has found difficulty in retaining a permanent comptroller.

CPA hired David Blake as comptroller in early 2009 but he resigned after only a few months on the job.

Currently, the ports authority has a total of nine employees in the accounting department, including Sasamoto, who was hired last year as deputy comptroller but quit after three months. He re-applied for the deputy comptroller position early this year and was accepted to the position. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

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'Limited hiring prolongs hospital's emergency status'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The emergency declaration for the island's lone hospital will stay a bit longer due to the tight U.S. immigration rules that are adversely impacting the hiring process for needed medical workers, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez yesterday.

"We're not ready yet [to lift the emergency declaration]. We need that emergency to be able to address the critical needs of our hospital," said Fitial during yesterday's ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

The local government lost authority over the immigration system since Nov. 28 last year to the Department of Homeland Security, which now handles the arrivals and departures to and from the islands. A U.S visa is now required upon entry to the Commonwealth.

Villagomez disclosed that even personnel hired from Canada can't come in to fill vacant positions at the hospital.

"The only nurses we can hire are the ones that are here. There's nothing yet in the U.S. immigration regulations that would allow us to bring in the needed medical staff immediately," Villagomez said.

At present, he said, there are 38 physicians and over 200 nurses at CHC—a situation considered stable at the moment.

More employees

Villagomez said the hospital will continue to seek additional or replacement employees.

"Right now, we have stable medical staff but should somebody leave for family or emergency reasons, we need to replace them and the only replacements we have would be somebody either from the Philippines or Canada. But how can we easily bring them here?" he asked.

Villagomez said even if the department wants to hire somebody from outside the U.S. who is qualified and is able to come in, U.S. regulations do not provide the CNMI more options other than the regular H visa process.

"They have not really given us any other option than through H1 and H2 visas, which is a long process," Villagomez said.

Federal assistance

Fitial said his administration will ask for help from the federal government to ensure that the critical needs of the hospital are met.

"We will ask for help…and we will get help. I believe that anything that would help the economy will be supported by the federal government," the governor said.

Villagomez and Fitial are hoping that U.S. Immigration would consider the emergency declaration to bring in the needed medical staff in special cases.

With the hiring of new physicians in the past two months, Villagomez said that all hospital departments now have attending physicians. The emergency room, he said, is now fully staffed and stable while internal medicine is expected to be fully staffed this summer.

At the pediatrics section, one physician is needed as a result of the recent departure of a doctor and the position has already been advertised.

The CHC earlier said that it needs 43 doctors to be fully staffed. About 75 percent of nurses currently working at the hospital do not have a U.S. visa.

Fitial declared a health emergency for the CNMI on Oct. 20 last year.

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Villagomez, Santos couple renew motion for release

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos renewed yesterday their bid to be released from prison pending their appeal with the Ninth Circuit.

Attorney Dennis P. Riordan filed the motion in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on behalf of Villagomez and the Santos couple.

Riordan asked the court to issue an order for the release of Villagomez and the Santos couple while their appeals remain pending with the Ninth Circuit.

Riordan asked that his clients' release be under the same conditions imposed since their arrest on Aug. 11, 2008, until the time of their surrender in late August 2009.

The lawyer said all three are neither flight risks nor dangers to the community.

He said the motion is also based on the existence of a substantial appellate issue—one not identified in previous release motions and bolstered by a recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

"In demonstrating the presence of such an issue, defendants need not persuade the court that their claim is likely to succeed, but merely that it will raise issues meriting serious consideration by the Court of Appeal, and that it is not taken for the purpose of delay," Riordan said.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are now imprisoned in separate facilities in the U.S. mainland, serving their sentences—87 months for Villagomez and 60 months each for the Santos couple—for their participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Then Chief Judge Alex R. Munson of the U.S. District Court for the NMI first denied the motions for release on Oct. 20, 2009, saying there is no "substantial question of law or fact" on appeal.

Villagomez and the Santos couple re-filed their motion to release following the Ninth Circuit's decision issued on Sept. 18, 2009, that denied their motion for bail pending appeal. The Ninth Circuit denied the motion because Munson had not yet issued a final order on the release issue.

Defendants cited two issues on appeal that, according to them, present fairly debatable questions of law or fact that will result in a reversal or an order for a new trial. These issues are whether the jurors in this case were biased and whether the court erred when it did not conduct an evidentiary hearing about the alleged biases.

In denying the motion, Munson said he considered both issues in depth when he entertained the motion for a new trial.

Red Cross Walkathon more than a kids' event

The American Red Cross CNMI Chapter will hold its 24th Annual Red Cross Walkathon on March 27 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Executive director John Hirsh is inviting everyone—young and old—to take part in the event on all three islands of the Northern Marianas chain.

"Most people think of the Red Cross Walkathon as a kids event but everyone is being encouraged to attend. For many years we focused mostly on school children, but this year we need everyone's support and participation. Walking is enjoyable regardless of whether you're 2 or 82 and for a great cause like the humanitarian work of the Red Cross," he said.

For a mere $15 donation participants receive a T-shirt and mini first aid kit as well as refreshments supplied by the walkathon's premier sponsors—Coke, Subway, and Foremost.

On Saipan, the 10-kilometer walk begins at the 4-H building and goes to the Garapan Fishing Base. Hirsh said the event will again feature many extra special activities including a petting zoo, jump house, face-painting, and carnival games.

"There will also be a variety of community partners including Department of Public Health (Blood Pressure checks/H1N1 shots), NMC-CREES cooking demonstrations, Emergency Management Office, Marianas Health Services, police and Fire Big truck show, and much, much more," added Hirsh.

For more information or pledge forms for the Red Cross Walkathon, contact 234-3459. ***(PR)***

SUSPECTED

From Page 1

schools, playgrounds and other places frequented by children.

Preliminary hearing was set for March 19 at 9am.

Jason Tarkong, the Department of Public Safety's acting spokesman, said police officers were sent to a school Monday afternoon to respond to a complaint of sexual abuse of a minor.

He said preliminary investigations showed that three students—two 12-year-olds and one 13-year-old—were sexually assaulted by a man at an Internet café.

Police learned that the incident happened in the evening hours of Feb. 27, March 1, and March 6, 2010, while they were playing video games.

The victims told police that the suspect, later identified as Doyle, approached one of the boys and offered him money in exchange for the defendant performing sex acts on the child. The child initially refused, but Doyle's persistence resulted in him having sexual contact with the child inside the men's room of the Internet café.

Another boy initially refused Doyle's offer, but he allegedly grabbed the child by the arm, causing a bruise. The child still refused but when he later went to the restroom, the suspect followed him there, where the sexual abuse occurred.

After conducting the interviews at school, investigators headed to the Internet café where they found Doyle. One of the victims later identified him as the man who allegedly sexually abused him several nights ago.

During yesterday's hearing, Govendo found probable cause to detain Doyle.

USCIS

From Page 1

28, 2009. It includes a provision exempting the CNMI and Guam from the H-1B numerical limitation.

The exemption does not apply to any job that will be performed outside of the CNMI or Guam, according to a memorandum from USCIS acting associate director of Service Center Operations Donald Neufeld, to field leadership.

In a March 8 statement, USCIS said petitions for new H-1B employment are exempt from the annual cap if the beneficiaries will work at institutions of higher education or related or affiliated nonprofit entities, nonprofit research organizations or governmental research organizations.

"Petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries who will work only in Guam or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are exempt from the cap until Dec. 31, 2014. Employers may continue to file petitions for these cap-exempt H-1B categories seeking work dates starting in FY2010 or 2011," said USCIS.

USCIS, a component agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said the fiscal year cap or the numerical limitation on H-1B petitions for FY 2011 is 65,000.

Additionally, the first 20,000 H-1B petitions filed on behalf of individuals who have earned a U.S. master's degree or higher are exempt from the H-1B cap.

USCIS said it will monitor the number of petitions received and will notify the public of the date on which USCIS received the necessary number of petitions to meet the H-1B cap. If needed, USCIS will randomly select the number of petitions required to reach the numerical limit from the petitions received on the final receipt date. USCIS will reject cap-subject petitions that are not selected, as well as those received after the final receipt date.

Petitions filed on behalf of current H-1B workers who have been counted previously against the cap also do not count toward the congressionally mandated H-1B cap.

Cases will be considered accepted on the date that USCIS takes possession of a properly filed petition with the correct fee, not the date that the petition is postmarked, the federal agency said.

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in specialized fields, such as scientists, engineers, or computer programmers.

H-1B petitioners are asked to follow all statutory and regulatory requirements to avoid delays in processing and possible requests for evidence.

USCIS has developed detailed information, including a processing worksheet, to assist in the completion and submission of a FY2011 H-1B petition, which can be found on its Web site at www.uscis.gov.

GARAPAN

From Page 1

tioning units and light bulbs as part of the CNMI Division of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program.

The Kus family is the first one to benefit from the program, which received $795,000 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act last year.

The program provides financial assistance "to reduce energy costs for low-income families, particularly for the elderly, people with disabilities and children by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety."

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos led government officials yesterday afternoon in a brief ceremony to "weatherize" Kus's residence, located behind the D' Torres Building and JG Sablan Ice and Water building in Garapan.

Energy director Thelma Inos said the Kus residence received less than $2,000 worth of energy-efficient appliances, although the program could provide eligible low-income households up to $2,500 worth of energy-efficient appliances.

"We basically hauled away their old refrigerator and other appliances and replaced them with new ones. Our division is working closely with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs which refers families to us, and then we check whether these households meet our program standards," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lorraine Seman, program manager of the Division of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program, said at least eight more families will be awarded energy-efficient appliances this month.

Seman said those with weatherized households as a result of the program will be able to realize "15 to 20 percent reduction" in their power bills every month.

"That would be a huge savings for these families," she said.

She said the Kus family's application for WAP eligibility had been granted in less than a month.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a residential energy efficiency program initiated by the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. in 1976. The CNMI was included in the program only in March 2009 under the stimulus funding law.

In the CNMI, the Department of Public Works' Division of Energy is the recipient of WAP funds and is responsible for the implementation of the program.

Only those with primary owned dwellings are eligible to receive program benefits, along with elderly persons 60 years and older, families or persons with disabilities, families with children, high residential energy users, and household with a high energy burden.

Besides Inos and Division of Energy officials, also present at yesterday's brief ceremony were DCCA Secretary Melvin L.O. Faisao, Commerce Secretary Michael Ada, Deputy Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

More information about the Weatherization Assistance Program are available at the CNMI Division of Energy's Web site at www.cnmienergy.com, or by calling 664-4480 or 81.

FEDS

From Page 1

ICE, one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the CNMI government are now negotiating an agreement for the federal agency's continued use of the prison complex.

An informal agreement between the CNMI government and the federal government will expire in April.

"We already have a basic agreement but the feds want to lower the rate but I maintain the rate that we offered," Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* when asked about the status of the ongoing negotiations yesterday.

Fitial came back to Saipan on Monday from Washington, D.C., where he attended the National Governors Association and met with federal officials on a host of issues.

He said Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta also expressed concern about the negotiation with ICE, but he said he will try his best to expedite the execution of the agreement.

"My concern is only the rate. If they agree to the rate that we offered, then we will have a contract," Fitial said in an interview right after the ribbon cutting ceremony for two new buildings at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque yesterday morning.

ICE could not be immediately reached for comment.

Fitial referred additional questions about the negotiations to acting Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas. As of press time, Mafnas had yet to respond to specific questions, including the amount currently being paid by ICE to the CNMI government for the use of the prison, and the new rate they want to pay.

The CNMI Department of Corrections has a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Marshal Office that requires it to pay the CNMI government $77 per day per federal detainee.

Fitial said the length of the agreement is also being worked on.

"I'm only concerned about getting it [negotiation] concluded so that we can have an executed agreement before the current agreement expires in April," he added.

The CNMI was forced to construct the $20.9-million adult prison in Susupe under a consent decree signed with the U.S. Department of Justice after DOJ saw the deplorable conditions of the old prison.

Construction began in 2002. The initial cost was only about $17 million but due to change orders, as well as procurement protests and counter protests, the project cost ballooned to $20.9 million. It opened only in February 2008.

'She's wrong'

Fitial, at the same time, said he met with U.S. Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown in Washington, D.C. and that Brown's statements to foreign workers regarding umbrella permits and the Department of Labor's role are not correct.

"She's wrong. Whoever believes in Pamela Brown will get himself into trouble because this is a Homeland Security issue," she said.

Brown, who met with foreign workers on Thursday, said CNMI Labor lost the authority to revoke umbrella permits issued to alien workers and those with immediate relative status on Nov. 28, 2009, when the federalization law took effect.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said Monday that CNMI Labor has the authority to revoke umbrella permits, reacting to Brown's statement that seems to suggest that an umbrella permit cannot be revoked.

"Specifically, the Department of Labor has both the authority and the duty to monitor compliance with umbrella permit holders. Should one or more conditions of the umbrella permit not be met, the umbrella permit is subject to being revoked," Buckingham said.

Deputy Labor Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat told lawmakers that some 200 umbrella permits have so far been revoked. She also told senators Monday that the names of some 300 foreigners are ready to be referred "soon" to ICE for deportation.

GTC opens new nine-classroom school buildings

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School inaugurated yesterday two newly built school buildings, with no less than Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos leading the ribbon cutting and blessing ceremony.

The two officials were joined by education officials, lawmakers, teachers, parents, and students for the inauguration of the $836,321 project.

"I am very much honored to be here as we mark the completion of the renovation work on Buildings F and G. The completion of this project further affirms the CNMI's commitment to prudently use federal funds for the benefit of our island community. This is our commitment to the accountable use of federal funds for important infrastructure projects," Fitial said.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from right, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from left, lead the ribbon cutting ceremony for the two new buildings and nine classrooms at the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School yesterday morning. Also in photo are Keith Aughenbaugh, left, of the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, and two GTC Elementary School students.

He reiterated his administration's support for education and infrastructure development.

"This project is a combination of both worlds. We will continue to secure more federal funds to meet the infrastructure needs of the various schools throughout the system," he said, adding that the completion of the buildings also show his commitment to GTC and its community.

The occasion also saw the governor turn over the buildings' occupancy permit to school leaders for immediate use of schoolchildren.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said the nine-classroom buildings would help improve conditions at the GTC campus.

"The new facility is always a very motivating factor when it comes to student learning. Students feel they are safe and excited about coming to school," she said.

Over a hundred students are expected to occupy the buildings.

GTC principal Charlotte Camacho praised the commitment shown by everyone in the project.

Of the total project cost for Buildings F and G, $711,500 was sourced from 702 monies while $124,821 came from the Public School System.

AIC Marianas Inc. was contracted to construct Buildings F and G and the company completed it in 115 days.

The classrooms are made of reinforced concrete, metal roof, and insulated acoustic drop-ceilings. Doors are aluminum and windows are certified energy-efficient. The new buildings also have the typical amenities for school facilities such as fire alarm and school bell.

Two nabbed for 'ice,' marijuana

A man was arrested over the weekend for allegedly selling "ice" while a motorist was caught in possession of "ice" and marijuana.

Frankie T. Mafnas, 34, also known as Kojack, and Jesus A. Leon Guerrero, 47, were taken to the Superior Court on Monday.

Mafnas was arrested for illegal possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance. Leon Guerrero was detained for illegal possession of a controlled substance ("ice") and illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana).

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that members of the Department of Public Safety's Drug Enforcement Task Force Unit used a "confidential source" to purchase "ice" from Mafnas on two occasions on March 3.

In Leon Guerrero's case, detective Dennis M. Reyes stated in his report that a police officer stopped the defendant in Chalan Kanoa for not wearing a helmet while riding a scooter on Feb. 23. Reyes said Leon Guerrero ran away but was later caught.

The officer searched Leon Guerrero and allegedly found .2 grams of "ice" and a stick believed to be marijuana. Reyes said Leon Guerrero admitted buying $90 worth of "ice" from a male person at a store and that he has been smoking "ice" for 26 years now. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning March 22, 2010 for one week.
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Appointments can be made by calling Hardt Eye Clinic (670) 235-2030, the Laser and Eye Surgery Center (808) 949-2000 or by email at drsamuello@yahoo.com.

2 men arrested for alleged sex abuse of minors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested over the weekend and on Monday two men for allegedly sexually abusing female minors in separate incidents on Saipan.

Juan C. Taitano, 43, was arrested on two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, while Steven Romei Aguon, 31, was apprehended for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and second degree.

Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos imposed yesterday a $50,000 cash bail for Taitano's temporary release. On Monday, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $50,00 cash bail on Aguon.

Police officers, with the aid of U.S. Coast Guard personnel, arrested Taitano Monday night aboard a fishing boat for allegedly sexually abusing two sisters.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that preliminary investigation showed that Taitano sexually abused the two girls as they slept in their house. The girls' mother was not home at the time.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau began the search for Taitano on Sunday and received information that the suspect was at his part-time job on a fishing boat named *Santa Rosa.*

When they got to the Smiling Cove Marina, they met up with DPS Boating Safety Section officers who were instructed to assist the CIB detectives in arresting Taitano.

The U.S. Coast Guard, which was also at Smiling Cove Marina for a separate operation, offered help in executing the arrest warrant. The Coast Guard personnel departed Smiling Cove Marina to search for *Santa Rosa* and Taitano.

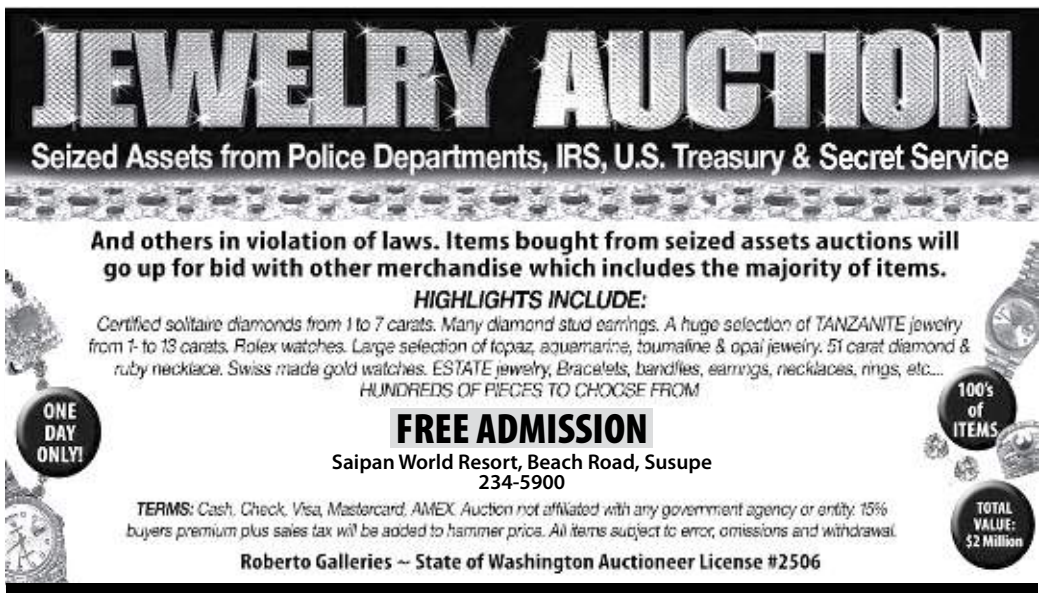
On Tuesday at 6:31pm, U.S. Coast Guard personnel arrived at the Outer Cove Marina and turned over Taitano to the detectives. Taitano was then placed under arrest.

In Aguon's case, detective Melisa H. Bauleong stated in her report that the mother called DPS on Saturday at 12:29am to report that her two daughters were sexually abused at a barracks in Tanapag. Bauleong said when the mother arrived home she saw her daughters crying, claiming that Taitano sexually abused them.

Aguon, an ex-convict, was served with an arrest warrant in Chalan Kanoa Friday night.

Detective Vincent S. Mareham stated in his report that DPS had also received a call about a sexual abuse complaint involving Aguon on Feb. 20.

Mareham said investigation showed that Aguon sexually abused a 13-year-old girl at her house that day, and sexually abused a sixth grade female student near the Chalan Kanoa cemetery last year.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And others in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.
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Sunday, March 28, 2010
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Another Emmanuel College graduate passes NCLEX

Another graduate of the vocational nursing program of Emmanuel College passed the National Council Licensure Examination for nurses, bringing to three the number of successful test takers from the college.

Yuan

Xiao Hua Yuan took the examination last month and was recently notified about passing it.

In May last year, Sarah Jane Santos became the first graduate from the program to pass the NCLEX, followed shortly by Jian Teng who passed it in June 2009.

Yuan, who is from Hubei, China, admitted that it was never her plan to become a nurse but was motivated by her desire to help people.

After a rigorous review and self-study, Yuan said her sacrifices and hard work finally paid off.

She plans to join the Commonwealth Health Center workforce to further improve her skills and experience.

Emmanuel College's 11-month Vocational Nursing program is approved and accredited by the CNMI Board of Nursing for a total of 1,564 hours of theory and clinical training for entry-level employment in hospitals and other healthcare settings. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Banquet to honor outstanding NMI employers

In an effort to support local businesses that employ members of the National Guard and Reserve, the Guam-CNMI Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve will hold its 1st Annual Employer Awards Banquet on Saturday, March 13, at 7pm, in the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort. Cocktails begin at 6pm.

This formal event, themed "We all Serve," is a celebration of employers in the CNMI. A similar banquet will be held for employers on Guam next month.

"This is our chance to say 'Thank You' to the public and private businesses that support our local men and women in uniform," said Guam Foundation for Employers president Paul D. Leon Guerrero, whose organization is sponsoring this event. "When those moms and dads and brothers and sisters get called to duty to serve our country, their mind needs to be on their mission—not losing their jobs while they're away."

By law, employers must hold jobs for men and women who serve in the Guard and Reserve when they get called to duty. This allows service members to concentrate on their mission without worrying about their jobs back home.

The banquet will honor 10 of the CNMI's most supportive employers in addition to paying tribute to the volunteers that serve in the community.

"Our goal is to show those faithful employers a night of fun, and maintain active support from public and private sector employers," Leon Guerrero said. "They are true patriots of freedom."

More than 100 employers, community leaders and service members are expected to attend this invitation-only banquet. ***(PR)***

Bill eyes renaming Rota school after Dr. Rita Inos

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new bill seeks to rename the Rota Junior High School after the late educator, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos, in recognition and appreciation of her untiring and outstanding contributions to the Public School System.

A public hearing is scheduled tomorrow in the school to seek the community's input on the proposed bill introduced by Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao.

Among the witnesses expected to give positive testimonies are Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita, board secretary and treasurer Tanya King, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, and the island's public school principals.

"Without equivocation, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos' contribution

Inos

to education in the CNMI and the Pacific is unparalleled. As the first native daughter of Rota to achieve her doctorate in education, it is most appropriate that we posthumously recognize and honor her by renaming the school where she first started her professional teaching career," King told *Saipan Tribune*.

King disclosed that the full Education board supports the proposed measure.

Dr. Inos, a former Commissioner of Education in the CNMI, grew up in Songsong, Rota, and began her career in 1972 as a bilingual teacher in Rota and Saipan schools. She died of cancer on Aug. 9 last year. She was 55.

In a written testimony submitted to Taimanao's office, former Rota representative Crispin Ogo expressed support for Senate Local Bill 17-01.

"The late Dr. Rita Inos had extensive educational merit, educational involvement within the Pacific Rim through collaboration, good relationship with our central and the federal government and most importantly enduring the Trust Territory era and our present government. Dr. Inos learned that education was her tool to success," Ogo said.

The former lawmaker also proposed the dedication of one of the Rota Junior High School buildings to Misael Hocog Ogo, also a former lawmaker and PSS board member.

However, he proposed that the Rota school be renamed Dr. Rita Inos High School, and not as a junior high school.

'Turn off the lights for Earth Hour'

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This March 27, Saturday, everyone is encouraged to turn off their lights for one hour—from 8:30pm to 9:30pm—to highlight the CNMI's participation in Earth Hour.

The act of turning off all the lights in homes and businesses is a symbolic statement about the greatest contributor to climate change—coal-fired electricity, according to Aric Bickel, guest speaker at the yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Giovanni's in the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Bickel, who works with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's coral reef management program in the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality, pointed out that the CNMI will greatly be affected by climate change in a number of ways. The increase in sea temperature causes coral reef bleaching, the raising of sea level can threaten shorelines, and climate change can alter weather patterns causing more violent storms which, in turn, may threaten agriculture, he said.

There are three ways to directly support Earth Hour. The first is to just participate on March 27 from 8:30pm to 9:30pm. Secondly, and most importantly for the CNMI, is to reach out. Bickel's presentation focused on simply getting the word out about Earth Hour. Finally, non-profit organizations are always in need of financial donations, he said.

Earth Hour was started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia and, as of last year, has grown to include 4,159 cities in 88 different countries, including nine of the 10 most populated cities in the world. For more information, visit www.earthhour.org or www.earth-hour-northern-mariana-islands.blogspot.com.

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Entrance ticket, tour guide, driver's tip
Optional Tour: Universal Studio
(Certain restriction apply, reservation deadline; Mach 22, 2010)
For more information and reservation, 288-2624/2625/2626
ASIANA AIRLINES
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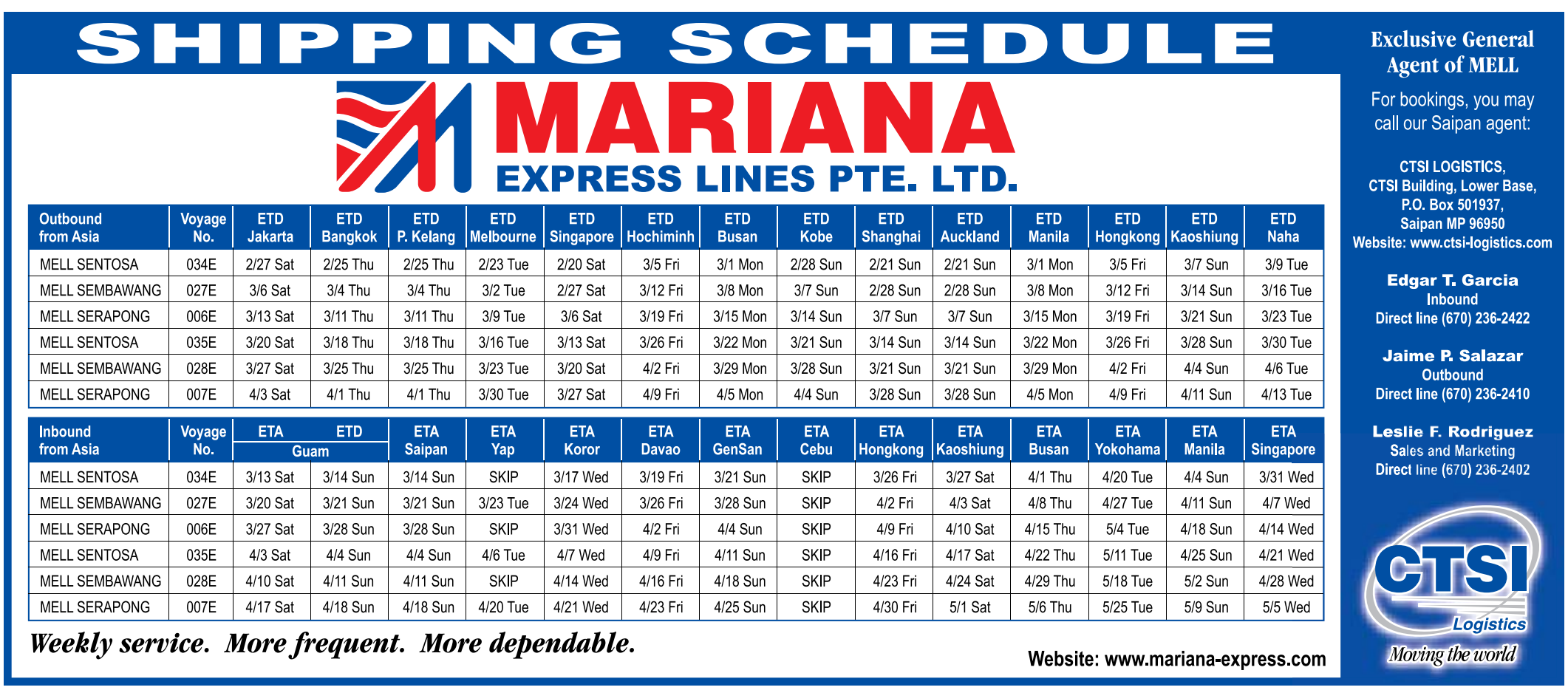

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	034E	2/27 Sat	2/25 Thu	2/25 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/20 Sat	3/5 Fri	3/1 Mon	2/28 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/6 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/4 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/27 Sat	3/12 Fri	3/8 Mon	3/7 Sun	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	3/8 Mon	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	3/16 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/13 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/11 Thu	3/9 Tue	3/6 Sat	3/19 Fri	3/15 Mon	3/14 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/15 Mon	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	035E	3/20 Sat	3/18 Thu	3/18 Thu	3/16 Tue	3/13 Sat	3/26 Fri	3/22 Mon	3/21 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/22 Mon	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	3/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	3/27 Sat	3/25 Thu	3/25 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/20 Sat	4/2 Fri	3/29 Mon	3/28 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/29 Mon	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	007E	4/3 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/1 Thu	3/30 Tue	3/27 Sat	4/9 Fri	4/5 Mon	4/4 Sun	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	4/5 Mon	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	4/13 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	034E	3/13 Sat	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/17 Wed	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Fri	3/27 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/4 Sun	3/31 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/20 Sat	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue	3/24 Wed	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	SKIP	4/2 Fri	4/3 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/11 Sun	4/7 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/27 Sat	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	SKIP	3/31 Wed	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Fri	4/10 Sat	4/15 Thu	5/4 Tue	4/18 Sun	4/14 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	035E	4/3 Sat	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue	4/7 Wed	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/16 Fri	4/17 Sat	4/22 Thu	5/11 Tue	4/25 Sun	4/21 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	4/10 Sat	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/14 Wed	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Fri	4/24 Sat	4/29 Thu	5/18 Tue	5/2 Sun	4/28 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	007E	4/17 Sat	4/18 Sun	4/18 Sun	4/20 Tue	4/21 Wed	4/23 Fri	4/25 Sun	SKIP	4/30 Fri	5/1 Sat	5/6 Thu	5/25 Tue	5/9 Sun	5/5 Wed

Cancer association moves to new site

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, the local cancer support organization for the CNMI, has relocated to a new office on the ground floor of Nokalimi Plaza in Garapan. Nokalimi Plaza is located between the Bank of Guam Building and the M2M Building on Garapan Road.

The CCA's office number is now 682-0050, and the email address is cca@ccamarianas.org.

Board president Alex Sablan thanked the Department of Public Health for the strong support the agency has given the CCA since the organization's inception.

"The Department of Public Health has been exceptionally accommodating to the CCA, and for more than seven years has provided us with office space, equipment, technical expertise, and other resources as we worked to build our organization and programs. We enjoy an excellent relationship with DPH today, and look forward to continued collaboration on services that benefit cancer survivors, their families, and the general community in the years to come," Sablan said.

Board vice president Bud White expressed special gratitude to three major and longtime supporters of the CCA for their assistance in establishing the new office in Garapan: Nora Sablan, IT&E, and Saiship.

"Nora heard about the CCA's need for an office, and immediately offered one of her office spaces in the family building, Nokalimi Plaza, rent-free, along with some equipment. Then IT&E and Saiship stepped in and offered their assistance as well in setting up the new office. We are grateful to Nora, IT&E, and Saiship for their support," White said.

The association promotes cancer awareness, education, and prevention, provides patient support services, and serves as the liaison for cancer matters in the CNMI and the region.

Board treasurer Maggie Camacho said that CCA's programs and services are funded entirely by the contributions of corporations, private foundations, families, and individuals.

"We would not be able to provide these critical services if not for the tremendous generosity and commitment of people like Nora Sablan, IT&E, and Saipan Shipping," she said. "And in just a few short months, on May 14, 2010, we will be holding our annual signature fundraising event, the Marianas March Against Cancer, at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. We hope to be able to count on the strong support and participation of the community this year, as we have in previous years."

For more information about the association, or to make a donation, call 682-0050 or 285-3935, e-mail cca@ccamarianas.org , or visit www.ccamarianas.org . For more information about the Marianas March Against Cancer, call 2010 MMAC chair Janine Nogis at 664-8500 or email Janine.nogis@gmail.com, or visit www.ccamarianas.org/mmac.asp. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

KagES to host 'Spring Splash Dance'

To all parents and guardians of Kagman Elementary School students, the school and its Student Council will be hosting the Blue Marlins "Spring Splash Dance" this Friday, March 12, from 5pm to 8:30pm, at the school's cafeteria. Admission is $1 at the door. Students must have KagES tickets with parental permission. Tickets are nonrefundable. Parents ar encouraged to attend and chaperone their children. ***(PR)***

MHS Open House today

To all parents and legal guardians of Marianas High School students: Marianas High School will be hosting its third Open House today, March 10, 2010 from 4pm to 6pm. Students will be released at 1pm on that day to allow the school time to prepare for the event. During the open house, progress reports will be distributed for 3rd quarter grades. ***(PR)***

Registration for Flame Tree Arts Festival now open

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Committee for the 29th Annual Flame Tree Art Festival said that registration for artists and food vendor's booths is now open at the Art Council Office. Interested participants may pick up application forms at the Arts Council Office from 8am to 4:30pm. The prices are as follows;

- Food vendors: $700 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Registered Artists: $150 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Non-registered artist: $50
- Non-profit Organization: $100 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Profit Organization: $300 + $100 security deposit (refundable)
- Community based/government: $10

For more information, call the Arts Council at 322-9982/ 3

NMC Alumni Association mixer on March 11

The Northern Marianas College Alumni Association will be hosting a mixer meeting at the Seaside Bar & Grill at the Pacific Islands Club on Thursday, March 11, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm. All NMC alumni (those who have earned 24 or more credits) are encouraged to attend, as many topics will be discussed, such as the upcoming NMC Alumni Membership Card. The card program is expected to entail savings at various establishments in the CNMI. Prizes will also be distributed! For more information contact Jack Kiyoshi at 234-5498 ext.1022 or email jackk@nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-067 (A) (B) (C)
Submission/Opening Date: March 19, 2010 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) PORTABLE INSTANT RAPID MESSENGERS (2-CIF–SAIPAN, 1-CIF–TINIAN, 1-CIF–ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-068
Submission/Opening Date: March 19, 2010 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PORTABLE RADAR SPEED TRAILER–CIF-TINIAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–TINIAN POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DEQ-069

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2010 **TIME: 11:00 A.M.**

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 150 HP OUTBOARD 4-STROKE ENGINE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDRALLY FUNDED PROJECT: AS SUCH, **LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE**, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a meeting on Friday, March 12, 2010, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, at the Pacific Islands Club, Annex Room. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
   A. Welcome
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of agenda
   D. Adoption of meeting minutes:
      - November 13, 2009
      - December 16, 2009
      - January 07, 2010

II. Upcoming Events
   - Public Hearing
   - DD Month Activities

III. Autism Commission

IV. Parent Training

V. Other Matters

VI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz
Chairwoman

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama
Special Education Acting Coordinator

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 10, 1999

Faisao says FAS bill to go ahead

The chair of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee yesterday junked an appeal from the Office of the Insular Affairs to withhold action on a legislation restricting the stay of Micronesians in the CNMI, saying the government must move ahead with its plan. Rep. Melvin Faisao also assured that the pending bill is patterned after the forthcoming policy of the Immigration and Naturalization Service on the migration of citizens from the Freely Associated States which will not be applicable to the commonwealth. In a letter to House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, the representative expressed concern over a request from OIA Director Allen P. Stayman to hold off CNMI action on the measure which is set to be discussed in a public hearing on Monday.

HANMI: Stay limit could dampen workers' morale

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands has assailed the implementation of the three-year residency limit on non-resident workers despite the strong opposition of the business community. Ron Sablan, president of HANMI, said members of the association are disappointed that the governor and members of our legislature ignored their concerns together with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and other members of the business community. "This is just one more damaging move for our business community during the worst possible economic times," said Sablan.

MARCH 10, 2000

NMI construction sector reels from slump

The construction sector in the Northern Marianas is not likely to rally stronger this year with all indications pointing to the declining trend in the real estate sector. Department of Commerce records revealed a shrinking pattern in construction activities in the islands since the first three months of last year, as the quarterly average of building permits dropped to less than a hundred from 141 in 1998. The Building Safety Code of the public works department issued only 84 construction permits between July and September 1999, down from the previous quarter's 93, and over 120 permits in the January-March period.

CDA told to promote NMI as investment site

As part of the efforts to spur economic growth, the House of Representatives yesterday adopted a resolution calling on the Commonwealth Development Authority to intensify an information campaign promoting the island's investment potential. The lower chamber likewise urged CDA to organize trade missions to the U.S. mainland, Asia and Europe composed of private sector representatives and government officials to help market the CNMI as a good investment site. CDA, the chief government lending agency, has the financing capability, technical expertise, and business and investment prowess necessary to develop an investment promotional prospectus about the island that will be distributed worldwide, according to the resolution.

MARCH 10, 2003

26 HS teachers have elementary education degrees

Public School System records show that some 26 teachers who are teaching in secondary schools hold a bachelor's degree in elementary education. The PSS' 2003 directory showed that, of the 30 teachers at the Cha Cha Junior High School, seven finished Bachelor of Arts/Science in elementary education degrees; Hopwood Junior High School has nine of 52; Saipan Southern High School has three of 27; Tinian Junior and High School has two of 26; Rota High School has one of 16; and Rota Junior has three of nine. Teachers at Marianas High School and Kagman High School are graduates of secondary education and other specialized fields. At the elementary level, 150 teachers (of a total of 292) have bachelor's degrees in different fields other than elementary education.

BOE opposes beautification tax

Citing lack of consultation and foresight on the part of the Legislature, the Board of Education has criticized the recent passage of the Environmental Beautification Tax Act and asked that it be amended to exempt CNMI's educational institutions from its coverage. BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero and board member Marja Lee Taitano described the law as self-defeating. "On one hand, they have this educational tax credit. On the other hand, there's this beatification tax. It's ludicrous. There's lack of planning. It could be that the Legislature passed it without intending to hurt the schools. But there's always repercussions. They don't think too far. They're just reacting to the moment. And as such, they're passing a bad bill," Guerrero said.

HIRE Act aims to put people to work in the NMI

WASHINGTON, DC—The House-passed Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment, or HIRE, Act will reduce the cost of hiring new workers and give employers a $1,000 tax credit if they keep those workers for a year. The provisions apply in the Northern Mariana Islands and could help address the unemployment situation in the local economy. The House approved the measure on March 4.

"Just like the rest of America the Northern Mariana Islands economy needs jobs," said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP). "The HIRE Act is one way to encourage potential employers to put people to work and to keep them employed."

The bill has bounced back and forth between the House of Representatives and the Senate for weeks now. But the newest version passed by the House is thought likely to be accepted by the Senate and sent to President Obama for signature.

The HIRE Act reduces the cost of hiring new workers by relieving employers of the 6.2 percent payroll tax. For a full year after hiring the new worker no Social Security tax would have to be paid by the employer on the worker's wages.

In addition, the new worker would also be free of the 6.2 percent Social Security contribution for up to one year.

Anyone hired between Feb. 3, 2010 and Jan. 1, 2011 qualifies, if they have been unemployed or underemployed.

"The new worker has to have been out of work or working for less than 40 hours per week during the 60 days before being hired," explained Sablan. "Because this bill is aimed at helping people who have been having trouble finding a full-time job."

To encourage employers to keep workers, once hired, the HIRE Act also provides a $1,000 tax credit to an employer for each of the qualified new workers who remain on the job for 52 weeks.

Funds will be covered over to CNMI Treasury

"Of course, whenever Congress is considering tax provisions, we have to think about the CNMI mirror tax," Sablan said. "In this case, I joined together with the other territorial representatives in December to let our House leadership know that some offset would be needed for our local treasury to make up for the $1,000 credit.

"And the bill the House passed last week does specifically require that the U.S. Secretary of Treasury will pay our CNMI Treasury for any $1,000 credits our local employers are entitled to."

This cover-over provision is the same as that for the Making Work Pay tax credit in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Making Work Pay provides up to $400 for an individual CNMI taxpayer or $800 for a couple. For most people the credit is paid out paycheck-by-paycheck over the course of the year. And the CNMI Treasury has been receiving cover-over funds from the U.S. to make up for the local revenue lost because of the tax credit.

Act assures FY2010 highway funds: $4.5 million

"Another important job-creating aspect of the HIRE Act," according to Sablan, "is the full-year provision of highway funds. We've been getting our highway money in small increments since the fiscal year began in October 2009 because the surface transportation act is up for reauthorization.

"The HIRE Act authorizes all the Fiscal Year 2010 money. That's $4.5 million for the Northern Mariana Islands.

"And those funds will put people to work, or keep people at work, on construction jobs, like the Cross Island Road project."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada has said he may file a motion to end debate on the HIRE Act and bring the measure to a vote this week.

In addition to adding the cover-over provision for the U.S. territories, the House also made the bill comply with the "Pay-Go" rules that require revenue offsets for any new spending. ***(PR)***

CNMI Division of Energy secures $9.5M block grant

The CNMI Division of Energy learned recently that it has just been awarded $9.5 million dollars through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

The Division of Energy will be working closely with Pat Saito, who is the assigned project officer by the US Department of Energy, as well as the CNMI ARRA Office to ensure these funds are spent expediently and in accordance with all federal and local guidelines.

The EECBG Grant will be used to fund several new programs that include the Residential CFL Exchange Incentive Program, the Residential Weatherization Incentive Program, the Cool Roof/ Wall Incentive Program, the Grinder for Construction & Demolition Program, and the Wood Waste for Reuse Program.

The grant will also be used to help renovate and retrofit the Energy Division Office building, as well as to install solar PV panels and hot water systems for government buildings. There are also plans to do a Waste-To-Energy Study to determine feasibility for the installation of a Waste-To-Energy Incinerator at the Marpi landfill. This will provide an operational electricity source to the landfill administration buildings. All additional power will be sold back to the CUC power grid.

In addition to all the new programs and renovations, five new jobs will be created under the EECBG program.

The CNMI Division of Energy is excited about the benefits this fund will be able to provide and look forward to working with the CNMI ARRA Office and the U.S. Department of Energy to maximize these benefits for the CNMI and its people.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial commended the fine work of everyone involved at the Energy Division and the CNMI ARRA Office for securing yet another large amount of federal funding for worthwhile projects.

"I am very pleased to know that some $9 million is headed our way to fund these important energy efficiency programs for our community. We are also very fortunate that this recent grant will also open up new jobs for our people," said Fitial. "Our administration will continue to exert our efforts towards securing additional federal funds for various programs that will benefit our islands." ***(PR)***

NMC offers grant writing workshop

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute is offering a short-term training course to those who aspire to improve their grant writing skills.

The intent of the grant writing workshop is to provide a general overview of grants and educate about the different sources of available grants and application procedures.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance or competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

Trainers:	Dr. Kelly Roberts and Mr. Bob Studdon
Dates:	March 16 and 17
Time:	8am – 3pm
Room:	NMC Board of Regents conference room (NMC Campus)

NOTE: Seating is limited

To register or for information about the course, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call Les Ogumoro-Uludong at 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

ONE-ON-ONE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (D-MP), right, had a one-on-one conversation with Education Secretary Arne Duncan in Washington D.C. about Sablan's four main goals for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization this year.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Right, we would love to greet our mom and grandma Julie Roberto Inos a belated happy birthday and many more to come! May you be showered with lots of love and blessing on your special day. We love you. Greetings come from Jarrod, Lani, and kids (Fidel Anton and Oryn Jordan), Candilyn (Ali), Alex and Rochelle, and John-Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Far right, happy 46th birthday to Mayeth Hernandez! May each and every passing year bring you wisdom, peace and cheer! Greetings come from Mel and Nette.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-017

CUC WATER FACILITIES UPGRADE/REPLACEMENT OF TRANSFORMERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms to supply and deliver the following power distribution materials for CUC's Water facilities upgrade/ replacement of transformers & conductor project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

TRANSFORMERS
TYPE : Transformer, Pole 3-Phase 13.8KV-120/240V TB (Three Bushing) 30 KVA
QUANTITY : (50) Fifty

CONDUCTOR
TYPE : Conductor, CU, Bare, SOL, HD, #4
QUANTITY : 5,000 Feet

Interested parties may be pick-up the bid package & the detailed specification at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-10-017, CUC Water Facilities Upgrade/ Replacement of Transformers, Saipan." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than April, 05, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened. Late submissions will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries should be directed to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email: msablan@cucqov.net and John Ed Onedera, CUC Power Division Engineer at email: johno@cucgov.net

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR Legal Counsel
/s/ ABE UTU MALAE Assistant Executive Director for Operation
/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Making sense of genocide

An estimated 1.5 million ethnic Armenians were massacred in the final throes of the Ottoman empire. That bloodbath, carried out by the Turks between 1915 and 1918, was genocide, and should be called by that name. In approving a nonbinding resolution to make this the official U.S. position, Chairman Howard L. Berman, D-Calif., and other members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee were responding to constituent demands that the United States take a moral stand. Now, Congress and the Obama administration must decide whether such a symbolic act also serves the strategic interests of the United States. For the moment, just like Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton before him, Barack Obama appears to be saying no.

It is important for the United States to stand for historical truth on the Armenian slaughter. Even more important is that Turks themselves come to terms with their brutal history. From Germany to South Africa to Argentina, there are many examples of countries that have confronted their violent pasts honestly.

Instead, Turkey recalled its ambassador for consultations after the 23-22 House committee vote, saying the resolution offends the country's honor and warning of negative consequences for U.S.-Turkish relations, as well as for the ratification of agreements to normalize ties with the Republic of Armenia. A more productive approach would be for the Turks and Armenians to adopt the protocols hammered out last year to establish diplomatic relations and reopen their shared border. The U.S. vote must not become a pretext for further stalling.

During the 2008 campaign, Obama was unequivocal in his support for labeling the killings a genocide. As president, however, he has the unenviable task of weighing that position against the need for Turkey's support in Afghanistan, in stabilizing Iraq and for United Nations sanctions against Iran. Turkey is the only Muslim country in NATO, and it currently sits on the U.N. Security Council.

We understand that any U.S. administration must nurture the vital strategic alliance with Turkey. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who coaxed Turkey and Armenia into signing the protocols last year, noted that the agreement established a commission to examine their bloody history and argued that "it is not for any other country to determine how two countries resolve matters between them." That's true, but we also understand Armenian fears that such a commission could whitewash history.

The goal is Turkish and Armenian reconciliation, putting to rest the ghosts of the past. That is in the U.S. interest as well as that of both peoples. For it to happen, the onus is on Turkey to acknowledge the Armenian genocide.

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The OSCARS
NEED WORK
LAID OFF
"I DIDN'T SEE MANY OF the BEST PICTURE NOMINEES THIS YEAR, DID YOU...?"

Moving with a different crowd

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Question: How do you know when you are living true to yourself?

There are many answers to that question that involve my level of happiness, my feeling of fulfilling my purpose and other measurable aspects of my life. However, one personal answer involves observing the people in my immediate surroundings.

It may seem contradictory, but the evidence that I am living true to myself is the fact that my "self" has changed over time, and is still changing, AND the people in my reference group have been changing as well to reflect it. My circle of friends—the people I find myself amongst—have been a direct reflection of who I have been becoming. Let me explain.

Three Different Crowds

At various times in my life, I've been aware that I had landed in a different crowd of people who had different ways of thinking, speaking and acting from what I had been used to.

The first major shift I can recall was in college. I had arrived with my "A" student's resume and was promptly blown away by the competition! Here at this Ivy League university were people who were smarter than I was, quicker on the draw, more creative and more adaptable. If I wanted to compete, survive, and thrive, I would have to raise the level of my game, and that's what I did.

The second major shift was when I joined a multi-level marketing company (think Amway, Mary Kay, et.al.) There, at those sales conventions and opportunity meetings, were people who were more motivated, more persuasive, and who could produce results better than I could. Many, it seemed, were natural-born sales people. If I wanted to compete, survive and thrive, I would have to raise the level of my own game, and that's what I did.

The next shift was here on Saipan. Upon arriving here, I found myself among a more diverse group of people than I had ever lived with. I don't simply mean they spoke another language or hailed from a different culture. I was among world travelers, contract workers, expats and military people with an impressive range of experiences and worldviews. I was among people, who, in search of opportunity, or simply new experiences, would pick up and move their entire families, to start new lives in Qatar, or Vietnam or Alaska.

This was a different sort of person than I was used to. These were people who could speak several languages, and who had unique and enviable life experiences. If I wanted to live true to my own dream lifestyle, there was a new way of thinking and being to which I would have to adapt, and here it was all around me.

No accident

This sequence of events was no accident. Each of the crowds I found myself among reflected who I was becoming. They were—inevitably so—an outer reflection of the inner me I aspired to be. I wanted to be successful, and soon found myself among a crowd of ivy leaguers with the potential to make such dreams come true. I said I wanted to be free from corporate employment and then found myself among entrepreneurial-minded sales people with the potential to make such dreams come true. And, I said I wanted to see the world and be a nomadpreneur, and found myself among those with the mobility and mindset to make such dreams come true.

As necessary as those transitions from one crowd to another have been in helping me live true to my self, they have not always been pleasant. In fact, sometimes they could be quite painful.

I've written before about the "Reconstruction Crisis" that comes along with setting new goals and aspiring to live a different life. That reconstruction sometimes results in lovers who leave, friends who fade away and a day-to-day that disappears. The good news, however, is that they will be replaced by new loves, new friends and a new day-to-day lifestyle that is more in synch with who you wish to be.

However, if you're not comfortable with change and transition, you might resist such necessary evolution in your life and put a stop to your necessary "unbecoming."

The journey of un-becoming and becoming

Most of us are born with an innate knowledge of how to live true to ourselves. As children, we honor our desires, put our happiness first, and pursue life with passion. However, as we adjust to life on the planet, the educational system, religious teachings, family dynamics, and other external influences, we are trained how to live true to *everyone and every thing else* other than our selves.

By the time we (hopefully) start on a journey back to living true to our selves, we must reverse the programming, unravel the distortions, replace the lies, and pass through various versions of the self in order to arrive at the one that allows us to live truest. When that happens, some things to which we've grown accustomed may be lost along the way.

Living true to your self is not always an easy choice. However, if the ultimate goal of who you wish to be is a worthy one, then the journey of unbecoming, and becoming is worth the price of admission!

See you on the other side!

[From the forthcoming book, Living True To Your Self by Walt F.J. Goodridge; www.passionprofit.com/livingtrue]

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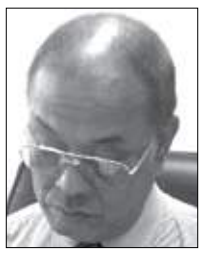
See MOVING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tribute to a political pioneer



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John S. DelRosario is the Secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

The untimely passing of the late former Marianas District administrator (DistAd) and lieutenant governor, Francisco C. Ada, brings back vivid memories of the formative years of our constitutional government that was established in 1978.

The late Ada played a key role in a myriad of important events that culminated in what's today the CNMI. But he was more prominent as the Marianas District administrator (equivalent to a governor) than in his subsequent role as the first elected lieutenant governor. I remember him as the sturdy voice of reason, sober, collected, informed and an outstanding speaker. He was strong in the minute details of substantive issues relating to the archipelago he governed.

I recall the annual budget review for each of the six administrative districts of the TTG at the Congress of Micronesia in the '60s where DistAds justify their budget proposals to the penny. He remembers small details, i.e., the number of folding chairs at the William S. Reyes Elementary School, i.e., how many were broken, needing replacement. That took the heads of the joint committee on budget by surprise. He knew his material from A-Z.

In his role as DistAd, his work ethic depicted a fitting adage: "Leaders don't fly with the flock; they fly alone." And this he did for many years as he reasoned his way through issues both thick and thin. It was his ability to decide (based on fully reasoned analysis) that led to a sterling and highly admirable political career. A thinker, he's almost aloof in his professional conduct. But this aura is the very unique aspect of his leadership qualities that granted him the time to sift through fact and fiction.

I admired his reasoned disposition on major issues. He trailblazed investment schemes (primarily in the tourism industry in the early '60s) to spur fresh sources of revenue streams. It was the right paradigm to undertake given the impending relocation of the Trust Territory Government's headquarters to Pohnpei. And he encouraged his children to secure good education in preparation for the future.

So what's his legacy? It's in his fully thought-out accomplishments in bringing the local economy to new levels in tourism. He took each sep with a sturdy voice of reason. He worked, in concert with local leadership, and jointly guided the smooth founding of our constitutional government that came into fruition 31 years ago. Yet, even as he flew alone in the blue skies of paradise, he found opportunities to listen to his people and spend quality time with his family.

His accomplishments and contributions are too numerous to mention. But I say "Si Yuus Maase`" to an uncle who held the torch of leadership for many years untiringly, ensuring that it stays lit and visible in the winds atop the hills of this archipelago. He has guided and eventually handed us the torch of leadership to carry on with pride, dignity and integrity as he did during his charge at the top.

Alone or with his family, he quietly sang time-honored local ballads, including *Ti Gi Un` Palasyon I Riku,* perhaps acknowledging his humble beginnings on a bright career many junior government executives view as a model to emulate. It's too big a pair of shoes to fill. But for all that you are Uncle Frank, *un dañkulo na Si Yuus Maase` ginen i korason mame*. We will remember you in our thoughts and prayers throughout the week.

Letters to the Editor

Remembering Francisco C. Ada

Our deepest condolences and prayers go out to the family and friends of this fine gentleman. Although he may have left us for another world prepared for him by our Lord, his footprints are still intact in many areas within our government and our community, both socially and spiritually.

I remember this honorable and humble individual since I was in elementary school like the back of my hand. I can pick him out from a crowd of a million. Why? Because he's one clean-cut individual that stands out.

You don't even have to strain your eyes looking for him because he's always detectable. How? He's attire is he's signature. I give credit to his wife and kids who may have helped him in one way or another but knowing him and what information he shared with us about what he does while at home was that he was so humble he actually irons his own clothes.

I went to his house at one time to get his signature for an official document and witnessed him ironing his clothes. I couldn't believe it; I went straight home and told my mom about it before I could even take the document back to the office.

He's signature attire begins when he steps out of his home to go to work. His hair combed, his dress shirt is either solid color or island style. All throughout his official capacity and even after he retired, he was always wearing white pants and white pair of shoes. He would go to functions, meetings , and fiestas in different villages and whenever he's in Tanapag, I would always make sure that I get a glimpse at him because there's something about this man that I admired so much.

My mom and dad always talked about how great he was and for us to follow his footsteps. At times, he would even take out his comb from his pocket and comb kids' hairs (including mine—lucky!), telling us, *"Haye tatamu? Ya Haye nanamu?"* I can still hear his crisp voice whenever anybody talks about him.

This is one gentleman that deserves respect and honor! I have yet to see or hear his integrity tainted in any way! Rest in peace my humble friend!

Jack Taitano
New York

Bad advice

I teach my students that they need to be watchdogs on government and point out problems when they see it. I'm writing this letter because I need to practice what I teach.

It's disturbing that Ms Brown, the Federal Ombudsman, continues to give out advice that isn't exactly true to guests workers. She should know better than to make the statements that she has made lately. Just for a little background, employers wanting to hire new employees in the U.S., including the CNMI, need to have a properly filled out I-9 form for each new employee. In fact, the Department of Homeland Security has issued an I-9 form specifically for the CNMI. The I-9 CNMI form that is required for all new hires after November 27, 2009, has a list of acceptable identification proving a person's right to work in the CNMI, including CNMI only documents. This form can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9_cnmi.pdf.

Anyone viewing this document can see that can see that there are only three classes of acceptable CNMI only documents: 1. Foreign Passport with red band entry permit (IR). 2. Foreign passport with CNMI permanent residence card. 3. Foreign Passport with Temporary Employment Authorization Letter from CNMI Department of Labor as long as proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations on the temporary work authorization letter.

Call me stupid, but it seems to me that having a revocation date on the permit is a limitation on that permit. Furthermore, I never knew that a permit allowing a student to stay in the CNMI was an employment authorization letter.

Of course, Ms. Brown is unilaterally saying all of this and more, even though she is not connected with the Department of Homeland Security and has absolutely no authority in this matter. I hope concerned people look out for themselves and make sure that they are following the law because after Ms. Brown's unlawful collection of data in December, I find her opinions untrustworthy at best.

Jack Woods
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Surprising, and disturbing

If there is to be improved status leading to permanent residency for guest workers as countless nonresident workers are apparently hoping for, then it had better happen soon because countless unemployed contract workers, having bought the bill of goods for improved status hook, line, and sinker, are still in the CNMI awaiting their ticket to the U.S. of A. Many of these guest workers, having gone unemployed due to the unforgiving recession which end is yet to be sighted, have entered into questionable employment situations in the hope that this can hold them over until a decision regarding improved status is made in their favor.

Meantime, CNMI Labor, having become well acquainted with the questionable employment schemes (sponsorships) perpetrated by many out-of-work guest workers acting in cahoots with questionable employers, is doing all it can to stem the tide of these sponsorships by ensuring that employers who file applications to hire guests workers do indeed have the means to hire and pay employees.

But if the ombudsman's office is to have its way, as recently announced, foreign workers now do not need the nod of CNMI Labor to seek employers in the CNMI. The announcement went further to say that CNMI Labor lost the ability to deport nonresident workers with umbrella permits. I believe that CNMI Labor knew that it lost the authority to deport anybody from the very beginning since USCIS did make this clear from the start. What USCIS also made clear from the start was that CNMI Labor procedures were to remain in place until November 2011.

When the umbrella permits were first announced, it was made clear in a series of workshops that CNMI Labor system would remain in place and that all renewals and attempts to enter into new employment relationships by and between employees and employers (for holders of umbrella permits only) were to be processed through Labor and the purpose of this, it seemed clear then, was to protect guest workers from questionable employers as well as, and perhaps more importantly, to ensure equal opportunity for U.S. citizens who are equal victims of the recession.

Good governance dictates that citizens be accorded first opportunity at what available jobs there are before any attempt to hire foreign workers, especially in a contracting economy like ours. Therefore, it is a bit surprising and disturbing that the ombudsman's office would attempt to take away this ability from the local government. This, even while the U.S. of A. is still mired knee-deep in recession, with countless Americans still unemployed and many more underemployed.

Esilech Terei
Navey Hill, Saipan

Contact info

The Saipan Tinian Student Association would like to thank you for the article that you printed on March 1, 2010. If possible, would you include our contact numbers and e-mail addresses so that the people who are in need of donations could get ahold of us. Our e-mail is saipantinianstudentassociation@yahoo.com or islandlotus@gmail.com and our Web site is www.saipantinianassociation.webs.com I may also be contacted at 602-791-6850.

Tia Maria Castro Dela Cruz
Saipan Tinian Student Association
Rio Salado College (Phoenix, Arizona)

MOVING

From Page 10

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

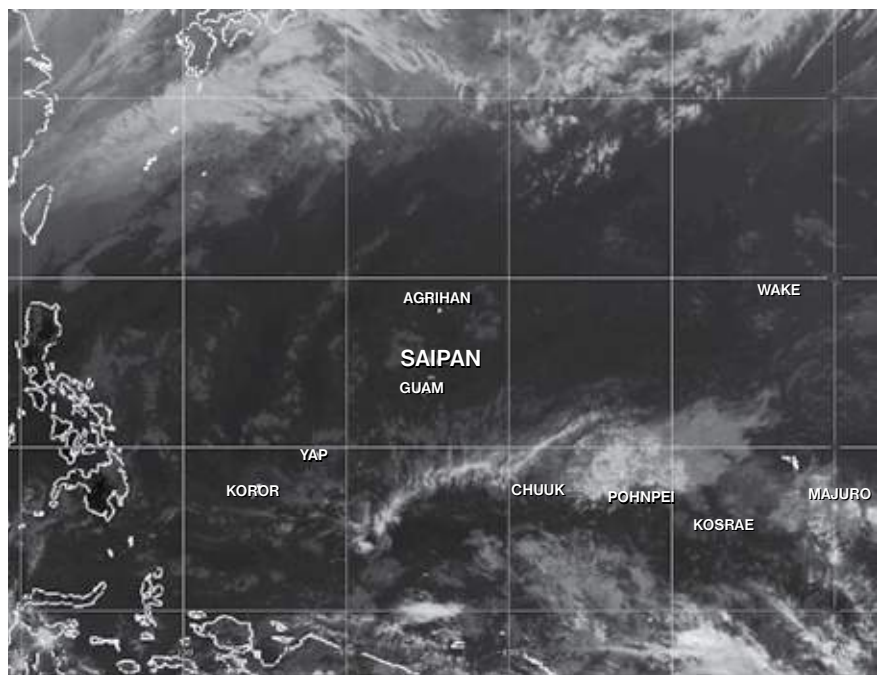
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲71	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲37	▼25
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲57	▼52
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲46	▼35
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼46
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Dreary	▲67	▼53
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼72
New York	Cloudy	▲54	▼39
Osaka	Rain	▲47	▼36
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼32
Pusan	Flurries	▲48	▼26
Rome	Rain	▲55	▼37
Salem	Showers	▲50	▼36
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼43
Seoul	Flurries	▲36	▼25
Tokyo	Rain	▲52	▼35
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southwest winds are causing cloudiness and patchy rain west of Iwo To island northwest of a line from 20N130E to 20N138E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 8N155E to 8N162E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers across the Marshall Islands within 125 miles of a line from 7N167E to 5N171E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:30 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
2:59 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:49 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:27 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	6:27 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:27 AM	1:55 PM
Thursday	3:11 AM	2:46 PM
Friday	3:52 AM	3:35 PM
Saturday	4:30 AM	4:23 PM
Sunday	5:06 AM	5:09 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Toyota disputes critic who blames electronics

WASHINGTON (AP)—Toyota, dogged by millions of recalls and claims that it still has not fixed its safety problems, took its strongest step yet Monday to silence critics who blame faulty electronics for runaway cars and trucks.

Toyota assembled a group of experts to refute studies by an Illinois professor who revved Toyota engines simply by short-circuiting the wiring. Toyota's experts say the experiments were done under conditions that would never happen on the road.

The automaker maintained its assertion that simpler mechanical flaws, not electronics, were to blame.

"There isn't a ghost issue out there," Kristen Tabar, an electronics general manager with Toyota's technical center, told a news conference at the company's North American headquarters in Torrance, Calif.

Meeting with reporters, Toyota addressed the work of David W. Gilbert, an automotive technology professor at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, whose work has been the basis of doubts about Toyota's mechanical fixes.

At least one outside expert said that even if Toyota's criticisms are accurate, the professor's work shows the systems that allow brakes to override stuck gas pedals can be compromised.

Toyota is mounting a public campaign to reassure its drivers about their safety and defending itself against critics who question the fix for 8 million recalled cars and trucks. Regulators have linked 52 deaths to crashes allegedly caused by the accelerator problems.

The company's fix addresses gas pedal parts and floor mats that can cause the accelerator to become stuck in the depressed position. More than 60 Toyota owners who have had their cars repaired have complained the problem has persisted.

Toyota dealers have fixed more than 1 million vehicles. But the government has warned that if the remedy provided by Toyota does not properly address the problem, federal regulators could order the company to come up with another solution.

Gilbert told a congressional hearing Feb. 23 that he recreated sudden acceleration in a Toyota Tundra by short-circuiting the electronics behind the gas pedal—without triggering any trouble codes in the truck's computer.

The trouble codes send the car's computer into a fail-safe mode that allows the brake to override the gas. Gilbert called his findings a "startling discovery."

House lawmakers seized on the testimony as evidence Toyota engineers missed a potential problem with the electronics that could have caused the unwanted acceleration.

AP

An example of a pedal with the modifications performed by Professor David Gilbert of Southern Illinois University during a live webcast Monday, March 8, 2010, at Toyota Headquarters in Torrance, Calif.

Prius with stuck accelerator glides to safe stop

EL CAJON, Calif. (AP)—A California Highway Patrol officer helped slow a runaway Toyota Prius from 94 mph to a safe stop on Monday after the car's accelerator became stuck on a San Diego County freeway, the CHP said.

Prius driver James Sikes called 911 about 1:30 p.m. after accelerating to pass another vehicle on Interstate 80 near La Posta and finding that he could not control his car, the CHP said.

"I pushed the gas pedal to pass a car and it did something kind of funny... it jumped and it just stuck there," the 61-year-old driver said at a news conference. "As it was going, I was trying the brakes...it wasn't stopping, it wasn't doing anything and it just kept speeding up," Sikes said, adding he could smell the brakes burning he was pressing the pedal so hard.

A patrol car pulled alongside the Prius and officers told Sikes over a loudspeaker to push the brake pedal to the floor and apply the emergency brake.

"They also got it going on a steep upgrade," said Officer Jesse Udovich. "Between those three things, they got it to slow down."

After the car decelerated to about 50 mph, Sikes turned off the engine and coasted to a halt.

The officer then maneuvered his car in front of the Prius as a precautionary block, Udovich said.

In a statement, Toyota said it has dispatched a field technical specialist to San Diego to investigate the incident.

Toyota has recalled some 8.5 million vehicles worldwide—more than 6 million in the United States—since last fall because of acceleration problems in multiple models and braking issues in the Prius.

AIG sells Alico unit to MetLife for $15.5 billion

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—American International Group Inc. said Monday that it will sell its American Life Insurance Co. division for $15.5 billion to MetLife Inc. The government-approved deal, AIG's second big asset sale in two weeks, will give the insurer more cash to repay the billions of bailout dollars it still owes the government.

The purchase expands MetLife's presence in Japan and high-growth markets in Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. American Life Insurance, known as Alico, operates in more than 50 countries. MetLife currently offers services in 17 countries.

It also moves AIG closer to repaying taxpayers. As of Dec. 31, the company owed the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York nearly $130 billion. AIG's bailout package was originally worth up to $182.5 billion.

On March 1, AIG agreed to sell Asia-based life insurer, AIA Group, to Britain's Prudential PLC for $35.5 billion. The two units, while selling similar products, don't operate in the same markets in Asia.

Investors were pleased with the Alico deal, and bid AIG's shares up 3.6 percent, or $1.02, to $29.10. MetLife shares rose $1.98, or 5.1 percent, to $40.90.

MetLife will pay $6.8 billion in cash for Alico. The rest of the purchase price will be paid in stock and what are called equity units, which are eventually convertible to common stock and preferred securities.

AIG will initially hold an 8 percent stake in MetLife. Its stake will reach 14 percent in early 2011 after some MetLife preferred shares are converted into common shares. The stake could reach up to 20 percent, after the insurer receives $3 billion in equity units.

China: US assets should not be 'politicized'

BEIJING (AP)—An official in charge of China's foreign reserves tried to ease American concern Tuesday about the political impact of Beijing's huge holdings of U.S. government debt.

"This is a purely market-driven investment behavior. I would hope not to see this matter politicized," the chief foreign exchange regulator, Yi Gang, said at a news conference.

He was responding to a question about concerns among some American lawmakers that Beijing's holdings of U.S. debt pose a political threat to the United States.

"China is a responsible investor and we fully believe such investments can be mutually beneficial," Yi said.

China's $2.4 trillion in foreign reserves are the world's largest and their management is closely watched by financial markets, especially as governments raise money for stimulus and struggling companies look for investment.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian markets listless a day after gains

NEW YORK (AP)—Asian stock markets were little changed early Tuesday, taking a breather after gains Monday fueled by a better-than-expected jobs report from the U.S. Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average was unchanged at 10,586. South Korea's Kospi added 0.02 percent to 1,660, and Australia's market was down 0.04 percent to 4,807. The U.S. jobs figures released Friday had stoked investors' hopes that the U.S. economic recovery remains on track and that the world's largest economy could produce sustained job growth. But the market rally paused in the U.S. on Monday, and Asia appeared to do the same.

McDonald's key sales figure rises in February

OAK BROOK, Ill. (AP)—Strong overseas growth for McDonald's Corp. in February outweighed U.S. sales that barely nudged upward as the world's largest fast-food chain posted a 4.8 percent increase in sales at restaurants open at least a year. The results come on the heels of January's 2.6 percent rise and were a welcome return to steady growth after back-to-back months of declines in the key sales figure late last year. Sales at restaurants open at least a year are a key indicator of performance because they measure growth at existing locations rather than newly opened ones. Baird analyst David Tarantino maintained his "Outperform" rating on the world's largest burger chain, calling Monday's report better than expected.

Top PG&E executive gets $9.4M in 2009 compensation

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The top executive of energy company PG&E received total compensation of $9.4 million in 2009, an increase of nearly 9 percent, according to Associated Press calculations of data filed with regulators on Monday. Peter Darbee, PG&E's chairman, president and CEO, received a salary of $1.1 million in 2009, a 4 percent increase from 2008, and a performance-based bonus of nearly $1.9 million, an increase of 46 percent from 2008, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bulk of his compensation was in stock awards totaling $6.3 million for 2009, a 2 percent increase from 2008.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	4,829.30 Up 9.70 (0.20%)
HONG KONG	21,236.53 Up 39.66 (0.19%)
JAKARTA	2,644.78 Up 18.33 (0.70%)
TOKYO	10,567.65 Down 18.27 (-0.17%)
K. LUMPUR	1,318.14 Down 6.08 (-0.46%)
MANILA	3,107.35 Up 12.37 (0.40%)
SINGAPORE	2,837.61 Up 3.04 (0.11%)
SEOUL	1,660.83 Up 0.79 (0.05%)
BANGKOK	717.57 Down 2.72 (-0.38%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	10,552.52 -13.68
NASDAQ	2,332.21 5.86
S&P	1,138.50 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0996
British Pound	0.6657
Canadian Dollar	1.0278
Chinese Renminbi	6.8262
Euro	0.7342
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7587
Indian Rupee	45.5250
Indonesian Rupiah	9,198.7500
Japanese Yen	90.0200
Malaysian Ringgit	3.3420
New Zealand Dollar	1.4391
Philippine Peso	45.7500
Singapore Dollar	1.4008
South Korean Won	1,134.6750
Swiss Franc	1.0737
Taiwan Dollar	31.8510
Thailand Baht	32.7300

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama pitches health plan in spirited appearance

GLENSIDE, Pa. (AP)—President Barack Obama made a spirited, shirt-sleeved appeal for passage of long-stalled health care changes Monday as Democratic congressional leaders worked behind the scenes on legislation they hope can quickly gain passage.

"Let's seize reform. It's within our grasp," the president implored his audience at Arcadia University, the first outside-the-Beltway appearance since he vowed last week to do everything in his power to push his health care plan into law.

The president's pitch was part denunciation of insurance companies—"they continue to ration care on the basis of who's sick and who's healthy," he said—and part criticism of his Republican critics. "You had 10 years. What happened? What were you doing?" he taunted members of a party that held the White House for eight years and control of Congress for a dozen.

The outcome could affect almost every American, changing the ways they receive and pay for health care—and extending coverage to tens of millions more people—if the legislation gains final approval.

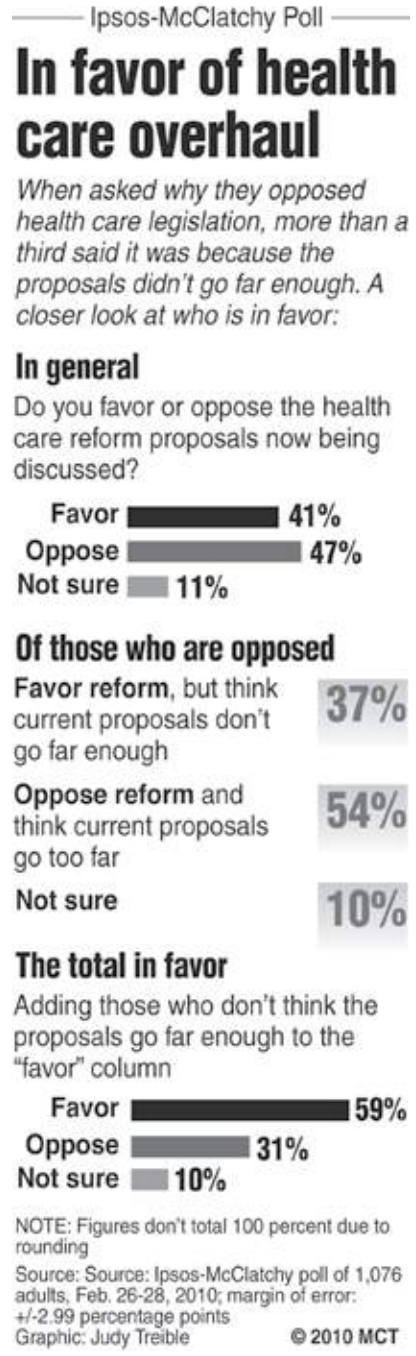
"I'm kind of fired up," Obama said at the beginning of his remarks, a variation on his oft-stated 2008 refrain, "Fired up. Ready to go." And he included an appeal to his audience—many of whom were students—to help in the same ways they might in a campaign. "So I need you to knock on doors. Talk to your neighbors. Pick up the phone," he urged them.

Obama made his appeal as Democratic leaders in Congress worked on a rescue plan for legislation that once seemed on the cusp of passage, only to run into difficulty when Senate Republicans gained the seat they needed to block action on a final compromise.

The two-step approach now being pursued calls for the House to approve a Senate-passed bill from last year, despite House Democrats' opposition to several of its provisions. Both houses then would follow by approving a companion measure to make changes in that first bill.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks about health care reform at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pa. on Monday, March 8, 2010.


Ipsos-McClatchy Poll
In favor of health care overhaul
When asked why they opposed health care legislation, more than a third said it was because the proposals didn't go far enough. A closer look at who is in favor:
In general
Do you favor or oppose the health care reform proposals now being discussed?
Favor 41%
Oppose 47%
Not sure 11%
Of those who are opposed
Favor reform, but think current proposals don't go far enough 37%
Oppose reform and think current proposals go too far 54%
Not sure 10%
The total in favor
Adding those who don't think the proposals go far enough to the "favor" column
Favor 59%
Oppose 31%
Not sure 10%
NOTE: Figures don't total 100 percent due to rounding
Source: Source: Ipsos-McClatchy poll of 1,076 adults, Feb. 26-28, 2010; margin of error: +/-2.99 percentage points
Graphic: Judy Treible
© 2010 MCT

Obama still wants US trial for some Gitmo suspects

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House aides are increasingly convinced that accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed will never face trial in a civilian court and are trying to cut a deal that would still transfer Guantanamo Bay terrorism suspects to the U.S., where many would faces criminal charges, a senior administration official said Monday.

President Barack Obama is trying to keep a campaign pledge to close the U.S. military prison in Cuba, a promise that has attracted criticism from Republicans who say it would jeopardize national security. He has also lately been under fire from people within his party who say Obama should not accept any deal that would prosecute Mohammed outside the normal judicial system.

But a senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations, said the most important goals are closing Guantanamo Bay and ensuring that the government can prosecute some detainees in U.S. courts. To do so, the only option may be abandoning the administration's original plan to prosecute the alleged 9/11 conspirators in civilian courts and instead send them before military tribunals.

Sen. Lindsey Graham is seen as key to the deal. Over the weekend, the South Carolina Republican expressed willingness to cut a deal that leads to closing Guantanamo Bay.

Detroit wants to save itself by shrinking

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit, the very symbol of American industrial might for most of the 20th century, is drawing up a radical renewal plan that calls for turning large swaths of this now-blighted, rusted-out city back into the fields and farmland that existed before the automobile.

Operating on a scale never before attempted in this country, the city would demolish houses in some of the most desolate sections of Detroit and move residents into stronger neighborhoods. Roughly a quarter of the 139-square-mile city could go from urban to semi-rural.

Near downtown, fruit trees and vegetable farms would replace neighborhoods that are an eerie landscape of empty buildings and vacant lots. Suburban commuters heading into the city center might pass through what looks like the countryside to get there. Surviving neighborhoods in the birthplace of the auto industry would become pockets in expanses of green.

Detroit officials first raised the idea in the 1990s, when blight was spreading. Now, with the recession plunging the city deeper into ruin, a decision on how to move forward is approaching. Mayor Dave Bing, who took office last year, is expected to unveil some details in his state-of-the-city address this month.

"Things that were unthinkable are now becoming thinkable," said James W. Hughes, dean of the School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, who is among the urban experts watching the experiment with interest. "There is now a realization that past glories are never going to be recaptured. Some people probably don't accept that, but that is the reality."

The meaning of what is afoot is now settling in across the city.

"People are afraid," said Deborah L. Younger, past executive director of a group called Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation that is working to revitalize five areas of the city. "When you read that neighborhoods may no longer exist, that sends fear."

Though the will to downsize has arrived, the way to do it is unclear and fraught with problems.

2 of oldest people in US die: in NH 114, Mich. 113

WESTMORELAND, N.H. (AP)—Two of the oldest people in the world have died on the same day.

Mary Josephine Ray, who was certified as the oldest person living in the United States, died Sunday at age 114 years, 294 days. She died at a nursing home in Westmoreland but was active until about two weeks before her death, her granddaughter Katherine Ray said.

"She just enjoyed life. She never thought of dying at all," Katherine Ray said. "She was planning for her birthday party."

Ray died just hours before Daisey Bailey, who was 113 years, 342 days, said L. Stephen Coles, a director of the Gerontology Research Group, which tracks and studies old people and certifies those 110 or older, called supercentenarians.

"It's very rare that two of our supercentenarians die on the same day," Coles said.

Bailey, who was born March 30, 1896, died in Detroit, he said. She had suffered from dementia, said her family, which claimed she was born in 1895.

Ray, even with her recent decline, managed an interview with a reporter last week, her granddaughter said.

Ray was the oldest person in the United States and the second-oldest in the world, the Gerontology Research Group said. She also was recorded as the oldest person ever to live in New Hampshire.

The oldest living American is now Neva Morris, of Ames, Iowa, at age 114 years, 216 days. The oldest person in the world is Japan's Kama Chinen at age 114 years, 301 days.

Ray was born May 17, 1895, in Bloomfield, Prince Edward Island, Canada. She moved to the United States at age 3.

She lived for 60 years in Anson, Maine. She lived in Florida, Massachusetts and elsewhere in New Hampshire before she moved to Westmoreland in 2002 to be near her children.

Ray's husband, Walter Ray, died in 1967. Survivors include two sons, eight grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

AP

This May 17, 2006 file photo shows Mary Josephine Ray during her 111th birthday party in Westmoreland, N.H. She died Sunday, March 7, 2010 in Westmorland at age 114.

ACROSS THE NATION

More than 1,000 mourners gather to remember Amber

ESCONDIDO, Calif. (AP)—More than 1,000 mourners have gathered to remember a 14-year-old girl whose remains were found over the weekend in a remote area north of San Diego. Maurice Dubois (doo-BWAH') and Carrie McGonigle spoke on a chilly Monday night before the somber crowd at Escondido High School, near the spot where their daughter Amber Dubois vanished on Feb. 13, 2009, on her way to school. They called for laws to better protect children from predators. Maurice Dubois evoked his daughter's favorite animal, the wolf. He said wolves hunt together to catch their prey and that parents must band together to protect their children. McGonigle said she worries every time she sees a child walking alone.

Ore. faith healers get 16 months for son's death

OREGON CITY, Ore. (AP)—The judge who sentenced an Oregon couple to prison Monday for the death of their son says members of their church must quit relying on faith healing when their children's lives are at stake. "The fact is, too many children have died unnecessarily—a graveyard full," Judge Steven Maurer said. "This has to stop." Maurer spoke in a quiet, unemotional voice as he led up to his conclusion: Jeffrey and Marci Beagley each should serve 16 months in prison. Members of the Followers of Christ church who packed the courtroom sobbed.

Paterson seeks to show he's still in charge

NEW YORK (AP)—Gov. David Paterson was adamantly in the business of governing Monday, taking questions from the public at a town hall meeting and trying to make clear his authority to negotiate a state budget amid two scandals that threaten his job. "Recently, I've been the target of rumors and innuendo, but it hasn't stopped me," he said in his opening remarks, one of the few references to the situation swirling around him. In their questions, audience members at the session in Brooklyn were clearly more focused on their own concerns rather than the governor's, who is being probed over whether he illegally had contact with a woman who had accused a Paterson aide of abuse. He is also facing an ethics charge for obtaining free World Series tickets. Few questioners mentioned the scandals, with one offering support for Paterson finishing his term before going on to ask a question on another topic.

Asia

RP health chief, church fight over condoms

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—On Valentine's Day, Philippine government health workers hit the streets of Manila to hand out roses and condoms to passers-by.

The message was clear in a country with a relatively small but rapidly growing HIV-positive population: Avoid unprotected sex.

It didn't get far. Within days, leaders of the powerful Roman Catholic Church began urging the faithful to reject condoms, reigniting a long-running battle over contraception in the overwhelmingly Catholic nation .

Bishops issued angry statements slamming the Valentine's Day distribution as immoral and called for the resignation of Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral, who ordered the campaign. One archbishop said that Cabral already "has one foot in hell."

The bishops called for a ban on condom advertisements last week.

"The condom business is a multimillion dollar industry that heavily targets the adolescent market at the expense of morality and family life," said Bishop Nereo Odchimar, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. He called fidelity and premarital chastity "the only effective way to curb the spread of AIDS."

On Monday, about 100 people protested against the church's position, carrying two baskets of inflated condoms and paper roses as they picketed outside the Bishops' Conference building in downtown Manila. They held a placard reading, "Bless our reproductive right."

BLESS OUR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
PM MANGGAGAWA PARTYLIST
PARTIDO NG MANGGAGAWA
BATAS SA REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE AY PROTEKSYON SA KABABAIHAN
PM MANGGAGAWA

AP

Protesters display placards and condoms in a basket during a rally at the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines Monday March 8, 2010 in Manila to ask the bishops to "bless the condoms as a conciliatory gesture to unite for reproductive health and women's rights.

The Catholic church is a powerful voice in a nation beset with poverty and political instability. Politicians court bishops' blessings and usually tiptoe around issues such as promoting contraception.

The bishops mobilized protests that toppled late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and President Joseph Estrada in 2001 on corruption allegations.

More recently, the church has spearheaded opposition to a reproductive health bill that calls for contraceptives to be provided in government hospitals and sex education to be taught in public schools. The bill is languishing in the House of Representatives.

Cabral, the health secretary, said she doesn't take the church's word lightly. "They are very powerful and they can sometimes be vicious," she said.

But the Harvard-trained cardiologist, who was reshuffled to the Health Department from the Social Welfare Department in January, shrugged off the flak as something that comes with the territory.

"I feel it is just a job that I have to do because as the secretary of health I know that it is going to be very difficult for our country if we let ... (AIDS) become an epidemic," she told The Associated Press.

The number of diagnosed HIV/AIDS cases rose to four a day in November and December, up from one or two during the first 10 months of 2009, according to the Health Department. In January, 143 new cases were diagnosed, the largest number recorded in a month.

Without intervention, the nearly 4,600 cases recorded in the Philippines as of January could soar to 30,000 in three years, Cabral said.

The figures may be the tip of the iceberg. Cabral said health officials estimate that for every new case recorded, 10 are missed. About 95 percent results from sexual transmission.

The Health Department's program follows the ABC formula: abstinence, be faithful and use a condom.

The church rejects contraception, which it says causes abortion. The bishops claim that condoms contribute to the spread of HIV/AIDS, saying they have a high failure rate and create a false sense of security.

According to the World Health Organization, scientific evidence shows that latex condoms provide 80 percent or greater protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

American al-Qaida suspect is not group's spokesman

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani officials reversed course Monday on a recently captured American suspected of being a member of al-Qaida, saying the man is not the terror network's U.S.-born spokesman, as they initially believed.

The man arrested in the southern city of Karachi was first identified as al-Qaida spokesman Adam Gadahn, the most wanted American in the terrorist network. But authorities later said it was a case of mistaken identity and that they have a different American in custody.

Pakistani intelligence officials instead identified him as Abu Yahya Majadin Adam, a name similar to one listed on the FBI's Web site as an alias for Gadahn, the 31-year-old man who has appeared in several al-Qaida videos threatening the West since 2001.

"The resemblance of the name initially caused confusion, but now they have concluded he is not Gadahn," said an intelligence officer, who, like all Pakistani intelligence agents, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

"He feels proud to be a member of al-Qaida," the officer added.

Word of the man's identity came on the same day that a suicide car bomber struck a police interrogation building in the eastern city of Lahore, killing 13 people. The attack broke what had been a relative lull in violence in Pakistan, where militant groups revile the government for its alliance with the U.S.

A senior U.S military intelligence official confirmed Monday that the man arrested does not appear to be Gadahn. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of Pakistani operations.

White House spokesman Bill Burton said President Barack Obama is getting updates on reports of the detained American but that the White House has not confirmed the information.

Asked about the arrests, Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik cited unspecified reports that "some foreigners have been arrested two days back." He said he had asked for more information on their identities from the intelligence agencies, which operate largely outside the control of the civilian government.

Report: NKorea has medium-range missile division

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has recently created an army division in charge of newly developed intermediate-range missiles capable of striking U.S. forces in Japan and Guam, a South Korean news agency said Tuesday.

The report came as North Korea stepped up its war rhetoric against the U.S. and South Korea after the allies started their annual drills aimed at improving their defense capabilities.

The North's People's Army recently launched a division supervising operational deployment of missiles with a range of more than 1,860 miles (3,000 kilometers) that it had developed in recent years, Yonhap news agency reported citing an unidentified South Korean government source.

The missiles could pose a threat to U.S. forces in Japan, Guam and other Pacific areas that are to be redeployed in time of emergency on the Korean peninsula, Yonhap said.

The report, however, didn't provide further details such as how many missiles the new division possesses and where they are positioned.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday it couldn't confirm the Yonhap report. However, a ministry document published last year showed that the North deployed a new type of medium-range missile believed to the same as one it displayed during a military parade in 2007.

If confirmed, the division's launch could suggest that the North has succeeded in developing more medium-range missiles since 2007 and it needed a bigger unit to manage them, said Ohm Tae-am of the state-run Korea Institute for Defense Analyses in Seoul.

Myanmar provides details of first election law

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's ruling junta will appoint the commission that will have final say over the country's first elections in two decades, state-run newspapers announced Tuesday as the country's military rulers began unveiling the laws that will govern this year's balloting.

There are growing fears among pro-democracy groups that the election—a date for which has not been announced—will be weighted in favor of the military and its supporters, and the first of five election-related laws to be published is likely to increase that unease.

The laws enacted Monday will set out the mechanisms and rules for the election and campaigning, and the conditions under which parties may participate. Details were to be released in the state-run media over the coming days.

The first explained was the Union Election Commission Law, signed by junta leader Senior Gen. Than Shwe. It stipulates that the junta will appoint a Union Election Commission with a minimum of five members including the chairman. Decisions of the body would be final.

Members, who cannot be members of political parties, must be persons "deemed prominent and reputable" by the junta, known as the State Peace and Development Council.

Myanmar's military government announced in early 2008 that elections would take place sometime in 2010. A 1990 election was won by the National League for Democracy party of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, but the military refused to hand over power.

The party of Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest until November, has not yet committed itself to taking part in the polls because it claims the new constitution of 2008 is unfair. It has clauses that would ensure that the military retains a controlling say in government and bars Suu Kyi from holding office.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan interrogation center bombed, killing 13

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber Monday struck a building where police interrogate high-value suspects in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, killing at least 13 people and wounding dozens including women taking children to school, officials said. The attack broke what had been a relative lull in violence in Pakistan, where militant groups revile the government for its alliance with the U.S. It also showed that insurgents retain the ability to strike the country's heartland, far from the Afghan border regions where al-Qaida and the Taliban have long thrived, despite army offensives aimed at wiping them out. Pakistanis living near the building had filed complaints urging authorities to move the unmarked interrogation facility out of the residential area so the street wouldn't become a target for an attack, said Mohammad Musharraf, a neighborhood resident.

US general pledges to secure symbolic Kandahar

KABUL (AP)—The top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan pledged Monday to retake the symbolic Taliban home ground of Kandahar in a campaign that builds on early signs of progress from the huge infusion of American and foreign forces. "We're absolutely going to secure Kandahar," Gen. Stanley McChrystal told reporters traveling with U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who arrived Monday to talk with his commanders and Afghan officials. The recent three-week military offensive by coalition and Afghan troops to evict insurgents from the strategic south Afghanistan town of Marjah is a model in spirit if not in practice for the larger, more complicated task of squeezing the Taliban in Kandahar and persuading Afghans to support the Kabul government instead.

Vietnam releases human rights lawyer from prison

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A Vietnamese human rights lawyer has been released from prison after serving a three-year sentence for advocating for a multiparty government in Internet posts. Le Thi Cong Nhan was released Saturday from Prison Number 5 in northern Thanh Hoa province and was escorted by police to her home in Hanoi, said prison chief Luong Van Tuyen. Nhan, 30, still has to serve three years of house arrest. In May 2007, Nhan was sentenced by a Hanoi court for violating Article 88 of Vietnam's penal code, which broadly prohibits spreading propaganda against the state.

World

Hundreds slaughtered in Nigeria religious violence

DOGO NAHAWA, Nigeria (AP)—The killers showed no mercy: They didn't spare women and children, or even a 4-day-old baby, from their machetes. On Monday, Nigerian women wailed in the streets as a dump truck carried dozens of bodies past burned-out homes toward a mass grave.

Rubber-gloved workers pulled ever-smaller bodies from the dump truck and tossed them into the mass grave. A crowd began singing a hymn with the refrain, "Jesus said I am the way to heaven." As the grave filled, the grieving crowd sang: "Jesus, show me the way."

At least 200 people, most of them Christians, were slaughtered on Sunday, according to residents, aid groups and journalists. The local government gave a figure more than twice that amount, but offered no casualty list or other information to substantiate it.

An Associated Press reporter counted 61 corpses, 32 of them children, being buried in the mass grave in the village of Dogo Nahawa on Monday. Other victims would be buried elsewhere. At a local morgue the bodies of children, including a diaper-clad toddler, were tangled together. One appeared to have been scalped. Others had severed hands and feet.

The horrific violence comes after sectarian killings in this region in January left more than 300 dead, most of them Muslim. Some victims were shoved into sewer pits and communal wells.

Sunday's bloodshed in three mostly Christian villages appeared to be reprisal attacks, said Red Cross spokesman Robin Waubo.

Nigeria is almost evenly split between Muslims in the north and the predominantly Christian south. The recent bloodshed has been happening in central Nigeria, in towns which lie along the country's religious fault line. It is Nigeria's "middle belt," where dozens of ethnic groups vie for control of fertile lands.

The Rev. Pandang Yamsat, the president of a local Christian group, said he has urged his congregation not to respond violently to Muslims. However, he said he believes Muslims in the area want to control the region and that any peace talks would only give Muslims "time to conquer territory with swords."

"We have done our best to tell our members, 'don't go and attack Muslims, they are your brother,'" Yamsat said. However, "'if they come to dislodge you in your place, stand to defend yourself.'"

Barely controlled rage spilled over in the village as those gathered for the mass burial attacked a Muslim journalist covering the event. The journalist escaped, but others made threats against reporters.

Haiti frees US missionary; group leader still being held

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—One of two Baptist missionaries still held on kidnapping charges in Haiti was released Monday, but the U.S. group's leader remained in custody.

Charisa Coulter, 24, was taken from her jail cell to the airport by U.S. Embassy staff more than a month after she and nine other Americans were arrested for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti after the earthquake.

Coulter, wearing a red tank top and sunglasses, declined comment as she quickly got into an SUV that took her to the airport.

The leader of the Idaho-based missionary group, Laura Silsby, said she was glad about Coulter's release. "I'm very happy that she left today, and for her freedom, and expect mine to come soon," Silsby told The Associated Press as she left the courthouse where a judge held a closed hearing Monday.

Silsby, 40, was returned to her cell in a police station near Port-au-Prince airport.

Defense lawyer Louis Ricardo Chachoute said Coulter was released because there was no evidence to support the charges of kidnapping and criminal association. He predicted Silsby would be released soon as well.

Survivors shiver in Turkey after quake kills 51

OKCULAR, Turkey (AP)—Hundreds of earthquake survivors huddled in aid tents and around bonfires Monday in eastern Turkey, seeking relief from the winter cold after a strong temblor knocked down stone and mud-brick houses in five villages, killing 51 people.

The damage appeared worst in the Kurdish village of Okcular, which was almost razed. At least 15 of the village's 900 residents were killed, the Elazig governor's office said, and the air was thick with dust from crumpled homes and barns.

The pre-dawn earthquake caught many residents as they slept, shaking the area's poorly made buildings into piles of rubble. Panicked survivors fled into the narrow streets of this village perched on a hill in front of snow-covered mountains, with some people climbing out of windows to escape.

"I tried to get out of the door but it wouldn't open. I came out of the window and started helping my neighbors," Ali Riza Ferhat of Okcular told NTV television. "We removed six bodies."

The Kandilli seismology center said the 6.0-magnitude quake hit at 4:32 a.m. (0232 GMT, 9 p.m. EST Sunday) near the village of Basyurt in a remote, sparsely populated area of Elazig province. The region is 340 miles (550 kilometers) east of Ankara, the capital.

The U.S. Geological Survey listed the quake at 5.9 magnitude.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Kandilli Observatory's director, Mustafa Erdik, urged residents not to enter any damaged homes, warning they could topple from aftershocks that Erdik said could last for days.

More than 100 aftershocks measuring up to 5.5 magnitude shook the region on Monday alone.

In addition to the deaths, 34 people were being treated for injuries, Turkey's crisis center said.

Abdulkerim Sekerdag, 72, said he had just risen for early morning prayers when the quake hit.

"The jolt threw me onto the ground," he told The Associated Press. "When I got up I checked my animals and then I checked on my neighbors."

"Two of them were buried. We pulled them out," he said, adding that they were alive but injured.

Iraqi parties both claim to be ahead in election

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi prime minister's coalition and its main secular rival both claimed to be ahead in the vote count Monday, a day after historic parliamentary elections that the top U.S. commander said would let all but 50,000 American troops come home by the end of summer.

Sunday's election, which took place against a backdrop of violence in Baghdad, marked a turning point for the country's nascent democracy. The winner will help determine whether Iraq can resolve its sectarian divisions and preserve the nation's fragile security as U.S. troops leave.

Initial results for some provinces, as well as for Baghdad—an area essential to determining any winner—were to be announced Tuesday.

The election was only the country's second for a full parliamentary term, and it attracted 62 percent of about 19 million eligible voters, according to the nation's election commission. The last such election, in December 2005, attracted roughly 76 percent of eligible voters.

Officials attributed the lower turnout to a combination of voter intimidation, more stringent ID requirements at the polls and a drop in voter excitement. A spate of attacks on election day—some directly targeting voters and polling stations—killed 36 people.

Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, called the election a milestone and said that every sign suggests Iraq will be able to peacefully form a new government in the coming months, and U.S. combat troops can head home by the end of August.

WORLD BRIEFS

Air India terrorist bombing perjury trial halted

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—The perjury trial of a man who gave key testimony at the trial of the 1985 Air India terrorist bombings that killed 331 people has been delayed because the jury has been dismissed. Inderjit Singh Reyat is charged with lying 27 times under oath in the trial against his alleged co-conspirators in the plot. The charges stem from Reyat's testimony in the trial of Ajaib Singh Bagri and Ripudaman Singh Malik. They were acquitted of first-degree murder and conspiracy March 16, 2005, after a trial lasting almost two years.

Israelis, Palestinians to begin indirect talks

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel and the Palestinians agreed to begin indirect, American-brokered talks, the U.S. Mideast envoy announced Monday—ending a 14-month deadlock in peacemaking and representing the Obama administration's first substantive diplomatic achievement here. The announcement, however, came just hours after Israel enraged Palestinians by announcing new West Bank settlement construction on the same day U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden landed in the region to promote negotiations. Israel's decision to build 112 new housing units on lands Palestinians claim for a future state highlighted the tough road ahead for those seeking peace in the region.

Cuba blasts foreign press for dissident coverage

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba on Monday strongly criticized foreign press coverage of a dissident hunger striker as part of a campaign to discredit the island's political system. Guillermo Farinas, a freelance opposition journalist, has refused food and water since Feb. 24 to protest the death of another hunger striker and demand the release from jail of some 26 political prisoners said to be in poor health. "Cuba will not accept pressure or blackmail," proclaimed a red-letter headline in the Communist Party daily Granma, which said, "Important Western media groups are again calling attention to a prefabricated lie." It was the first time Cuba's state news media had mentioned the hunger strike.

Campus Life

Green Meadow School students shine at Regional PGFC

Students from Green Meadow School showed again their fierce competitive spirits at the CNMI Regional Primary Grade Forensic Competition, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School, by harvesting a good number of gold, silver and bronze medals as well as a generous amount of other honors.

Even prouder and equally excited were the parents and teachers who had faith in the preparedness and abilities of every competing student. GMS thanked all parents, teachers and volunteers for their efforts and dedication in supporting the students.

Special thanks from the school management also go to Eliza Palattao, Aiza Alejo, Mollin Cruz, Filmah Buenaflor, and Magie Rena for their valuable time and efforts as PGFC volunteers. Congratulations to all the GMS students, parents, teachers, volunteers, friends and supporters for a job well done!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Regional PGFC medalists of the Green Meadow School pose with their teacher-coaches after the competition, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School.

K-2 DIVISION (KINDER- 2ND GRADE):

1st Place - Gold Medal: Duo
Christian Dean Palattao, 1st Grade
Christian Edward Mendoza, 1st Grade

2nd Place - Silver Medal: Duo
Natalie Jane Hirshbein, 2nd Grade
Angel Mae Oropesa, 2nd Grade

2nd Place - Silver Medal: Choral Speaking
Art Vincent Alfeche, 2nd Grade
Kimvherly Dela Cruz, 2nd Grade
Angel Mae Oropesa, 2nd Grade
Ashley Reganit, 2nd Grade
Trina Marie Rena, 2nd Grade

2nd Place - Silver Medal: Humorous Interpretation
Kristina Jane Crisostomo, 1st Grade

3rd Place: - Bronze Medal: Choral Speaking
Chelsea Garcia, 1st Grade
Jhanylin Cruz, 1st Grade
Miles Gregory Navarro, 1st Grade

5th Place - Ribbon: Humorous Interpretation
Jhanylin Cruz, 1st Grade

5th Place - Ribbon: Dramatic Interpretation
Aldraine Galang, 1st Grade

5th Place - Ribbon: Reader's Forum
Ashley Reganit, 2nd Grade

Semi- Finals:
3rd Place - Ribbon: Reader's Forum
Ashley Reganit, 2nd Grade

3-5 DIVISION (3RD – 5TH GRADES):

1st Place - Gold Medal: Dramatic Interpretation
Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, 3rd Grade

1st Place - Gold Medal: Choral Speaking
Pionnah Rosej Gregorio, 3rd Grade
Ryan Louis Divino, 3rd Grade
Anniea Sofia Saturno, 3rd Grade

2nd Place - Silver Medal : Choral Speaking
Ma. Theresa Dalusong, 5th Grade
Danielle Coloma, 5th Grade
Angela Reganit, 5th Grade
Ma. Fatima Briones, 5th Grade

4th Place - Ribbon: DUO
Andrea Monique Agtarap, 3rd Grade
Gabrielle Shanikka Flores, 3rd Grade

5th Place – Ribbon: DUO
Ryan Louis Divino, 3rd Grade
Anniea Sofia saturno, 3rd Grade

5th Place – Ribbon: Choral Speaking
Mary Grace Briones, 4th Grade
Chekaina Coloma, 4th Grade
Monica Aira Usi, 4th Grade

Coaches:
K-5- Ms. Sony Natividad
1st Grade- Ms. Leonor Marfil
2nd Grade- Ms. Marilyn Divino
3rd Grade- Ms. Ellen Alejo
4th Grade- Mr. Manuel Castro
5th Grade- Mr. Cenon Ayuman
PGFC Coordinator- Ms. Ellen Alejo

Coast Guard Inspires at Career Day

BARRIGADA, Guam—On Feb. 24, 2010, the U.S. Coast Guard participated in P.C. Lujan Elementary's Career Day. The goal of Career Day is to expose children to many different opportunities at a young age, hopefully inspiring them to seek out a career that challenges and interests them.

Students enrolled in second grade were able to interact with Coast Guard men and women to learn about their jobs. The Coasties also taught some basic water safety skills, including how to place a marine emergency call.

The Coast Guard set up a static display for the children, encouraging them to interact with the gear and develop their newly learned skills. In addition to climbing onto the 25ft Response Boat, the children were allowed to don hard hats and overalls, throw heaving lines, and learn about life jackets, EPIRBS (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon), and other tools that the Coast Guard employs for marine safety.

MST2 Audrey Gurganus said that she particularly enjoyed helping the students use the radios to communicate with each other from across the room. "The kids really enjoyed all the equipment we had," said Gurganus.

BM3 Brian Sink, a member of CG Station Apra Harbor, was part of the day's events. He describes why it was meaningful for him to donate some of his time to the students "I remember how I felt at 7 or 8 years old and the fire department would come to my school and let us try on their helmets and tour their truck…they were just normal guys doing their jobs, but to me back then, they were like super heroes. It was so cool to feel like that super hero type person."

Another Coastie, OSC Joseph Benavente, was reminded of his childhood too. "As a second grader, I knew nothing about the Coast Guard," Benavente explained. "I wanted to be a policeman when I was in the second grade. If I had known about the Coast Guard, I would have wanted to be a Coastie instead."

Chief Benavente now works at the Sector Guam Command Center, who handles Search and Rescue among other Coast Guard missions. Benavente added, "I hope we gave them a good understanding about the Coast Guard's mission to preserve and protect the very waters that they will enjoy for the rest of their lives."

The children received toy foam boats and helicopters, and coloring books as keepsakes for their special day, and the grand finale was a lunch put on by the staff of P.C. Lujan Elementary. Perhaps one of the P.C. Lujan Elementary students will grow up to join the Coast Guard, protecting Guam's waters and becoming a "super hero" for someone else.

For maritime emergencies, call the Coast Guard 24 hours a day at (671) 564-USCG or 911. ***(USCG)***

GCA CHAMPIONS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy K-2 Division winners show off their ribbons after the regional competition of the Primary Grade Forensic Conference, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School. From right to left, Matt Jason Moran, first place, Readers Forum; Impromptu Speaking winners Tae Yong Kim, first place; Arvin Dayao, second place; Jim Michael Ham, third place; Robert Hanrey Schorr, fourth place; and Elijah Joshua Pajarillaga, fifth place. Also in the photo is Kelly Dawe, second grade coach and homeroom teacher.

Life & Style

Oscar's big question: How did David slay Goliath?

NEW YORK (AP)—For Hollywood pundits, industry folk and Oscar fans still paying attention on Monday, a major question remained: How did David slay Goliath?

For as much as "The Hurt Locker" was the critics' darling, it had three major strikes against it in its battle against the mighty James Cameron's "Avatar."

First, the box office was paltry—it's taken in just $14.7 million domestically, compared to an amazing $720.6 million for "Avatar." That makes "The Hurt Locker" the lowest-grossing best picture winner since accurate records have been kept.

Second, it had no big acting names, usually an important factor in Oscar victory.

And third, it was about the Iraq war, a subject moviegoers traditionally just don't want to deal with. "Iraq is usually the kiss of death at the Oscars," says Tom O'Neil, blogger for the Los Angeles Times' Envelope, an awards site.

But even with 10 nominees in the running for this year's best picture Oscar, the two films—whose directors were once married—were quickly pitted against each other in the race for Hollywood's highest honor.

How did "The Hurt Locker" win out? Theories abound:

Oscar battles

"The Hurt Locker" has joined the list of best picture winners in which a modern war figures prominently in the plot:

Year	War	Film
1927-28	WWI	Wings
1929-30	WWI	All Quiet on the Western Front
1942	WWII	Mrs. Miniver
1943	WWII	Casablanca
1946	WWII	The Best Years of Our Lives
1953	WWI	From Here to Eternity
1957	WWII	The Bridge on the River Kwai
1962	WWI	Lawrence of Arabia
1970	WWII	Patton
1978	Vietnam	The Deer Hunter
1986	Vietnam	Platoon
1993	WWII	Schindler's List
1996	WWII	The English Patient
2010	Iraq War	The Hurt Locker

Source: The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences © 2010 MCT

FINALLY A NON-POLITICAL FILM ABOUT IRAQ:

Many films about the Iraq war have fallen into a trap of appearing preachy or at least having a strong point of view. Viewers may or may not agree with that view—that still doesn't mean they want to get it at the movies.

But "The Hurt Locker," a story of three technicians on a bomb-defusing team in Baghdad, is at heart an action movie—a documentary-style close-up of the men, their relationships, their missteps and the almost unbearable tension inherent in their exhausting, terrifying, tedious work.

"This isn't that kind of muckraking film aiming to show torture or violation of rules of war," says Robert Sklar, film professor at New York University. "This is a film about men trying to save lives rather than take them. It's also a buddy story. It has classic war-movie themes."

OSCAR LIKES FILMS WITH AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

Often the Academy honors big, sweeping films, which "The Hurt Locker" is certainly not. But it also looks for films with a substantial message. "Oscar likes films of importance, with a capital I," says film historian Leonard Maltin. "Often they're big films, but this is a small film that dealt with a really important subject."

OSCAR VOTERS DON'T CARE ABOUT BOX OFFICE:

Who says Oscar cares about box office? "The Oscars don't pay attention to that at all, and nor should they," Maltin says. In fact, he adds, they've often been accused of being too elitist, favoring independent movies over big films favored by the broader public.

YES, THEY DO!:

Nonsense, says O'Neil, of The Envelope: "The Academy wants their movies to do well. Then they anoint them." Even last year's "Slumdog Millionaire," which originally almost went straight to DVD, had made $40 million before the nominations, then rode to $70 million by the time of the awards, he says.

IT'S ABOUT THE CAMPAIGNING:

All of "Hurt Locker's" technical merit aside, "it would be naive to think Oscar campaigning had nothing to do with it," says O'Neil.

He credits Cynthia Swartz, whose public relations firm was given the Oscar campaigning job by Summit, the film's distributor, which was looking for industry respect and had plenty of money to fund the campaign, having already cashed in with the "Twilight" vampire movies.

"It was a very savvy campaign," says O'Neil. "Full force, and highly aggressive."

THE WOMAN FACTOR:

As compelling as her movie was, director Kathryn Bigelow had a compelling story of her own. This director who specializes not in female-oriented films but in big action thrillers had a real shot at becoming the first woman in Oscar history to win the best director prize, with her film winning best picture, too.

Yet Bigelow tried to downplay that element of her story, saying in interviews that she just wanted to be seen as a filmmaker, not a female one.

"Bigelow refused to capitalize on the woman factor, and to her credit," says Maltin. Everyone else wanted to make it a story but her. Still, you can't deny it had some impact."

THE EX FACTOR:

Nor did Bigelow have any desire to capitalize on the "Ex Factor"—in case you're way behind on your Oscar gossip, she was married to Cameron from 1989-91. Were there some voters who were secretly rooting for her to leave him in the dust? No way of knowing, and the two seemed amicable through the awards season, with him standing and cheering as she won her Oscar. Still, there's no doubt that the "battle of the exes" (ok, we're done with the puns) added to the hype.

THE VOTING SYSTEM:

Then there was the new system for choosing best picture, with 10 nominees this year instead of the usual five. In previous years, a voter would simply make one choice for best picture. But this year's ballots had a preferential system, meaning voters ranked their choices. The lowest choices were then eliminated. That meant it was a system that favored consensus choices, some hypothesized.

"'Avatar' is polarizing," postulated Hendrik Hertzberg in The New Yorker magazine last month. "So is James Cameron ... these factors could push 'Avatar' to the bottom of a choice-ranked ballot.'"

AND SPEAKING OF "AVATAR"...

Was "Avatar" ever really going to win? Blogger O'Neil doesn't think so, even though it won the Golden Globe and seemed to be at the top of many prediction lists.

"I think we pundits convinced ourselves that 'Avatar' might win, but in reality there's a science-fiction bias in the Academy, and it's pretty unbudgeable," he says.

We'll never know how close the vote was—the Academy doesn't release that information and it doesn't do exit polls. But informal exit polls done privately by industry insiders, and his own conversations, lead O'Neil to think that Quentin Tarantino's wild "Inglourious Basterds" was actually the film that almost won, not "Avatar."

HOW ABOUT ... IT'S JUST A REALLY GOOD MOVIE:

"Look at all the awards this film won—screenplay, sound, editing," notes Sklar, the NYU film professor and author of "Movie-Made America."

"The sheer quality of the work must have influenced a lot of the professionals in the industry who were voting. It's just such a well-made movie from aesthetic and technical point of view, it overcomes all those other concerns."

And so maybe it's this simple: In the end, good writing, superb acting and just plain excellent filmmaking do win out in Hollywood.

Sometimes.

How Oscar winners fared at box office

Domestic box-office totals through February for the most-honored films at the 82nd annual Academy Awards:

MOVIE: "The Hurt Locker," Summit Entertainment.
OSCARS: Six, including best picture and director.
RELEASED: June.
BOX OFFICE: $12.7 million so far.

■ ■ ■ ■

MOVIE: "Avatar," 20th Century Fox.
OSCARS: Three, including best art direction and visual effects.
RELEASED: December.
BOX OFFICE: $706 million so far.

■ ■ ■ ■

MOVIE: "Crazy Heart," 20th Century Fox.
OSCARS: Two, including best actor and original song.
RELEASED: December.
BOX OFFICE: $25 million so far.

■ ■ ■ ■

MOVIE: "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire." Lionsgate.
OSCARS: Two, including best supporting actress and best adapted screenplay.
RELEASED: November.
BOX OFFICE: $47 million so far.

■ ■ ■ ■

MOVIE: "Up," The Walt Disney Co.
OSCARS: Two, including best animated feature and original score.
RELEASED: May.
BOX OFFICE: $293 million so far.

© The Associated Press

Real Hurt Lockers in Iraq: Life is no movie

NASIRIYAH, Iraq (AP)—American bomb disposal experts in Iraq say few people understood what they did.

Not any more.

Now, the U.S. military's explosive experts are basking in their job's newfound fame after the Iraq war drama "The Hurt Locker" took home the best picture prize at Sunday's Academy Awards in Hollywood.

But the specialists still have to explain they are not all like the film's arrogant, adrenaline-junkie hero.

Set in the summer of 2004, the movie tells the fictional story of an elite U.S. Army bomb squad that has 38 days to go before its members can leave Baghdad. Under enormous pressure, since one false move can kill them and everyone around them, they are itching to get the job done and head home.

Enter Staff Sgt. William James, who's either a swaggering, brilliant, bomb disposal expert, or an egomaniacal showoff—perhaps a bit of both. The character and the screenplay were inspired by the screenwriter's own experience while he was embedded with such a squad in 2004.

But James' character earned mixed reviews from bomb experts in Iraq attached to the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

"That guy was more of a run and gun cowboy type, and that is exactly the kind of person that we're not looking for," said Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Phillips, a team leader in Iraq's eastern Maysan province.

Phillips, 30, from Fayetteville, North Carolina, called the movie's portrayal of a bomb expert "grossly exaggerated and not appropriate."

Airman 1st class Stephen Dobbins said such swagger would put a whole team at risk.

"Our team leaders don't have that kind of invincibility complex, and if they do, they aren't allowed to operate," said Dobbins, 22, of Paulden, Arizona, one of many Air Force experts who have been flown in to back up Army explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team operations. "A team leader's first priority is getting his team home in one piece."

But that doesn't mean the movie doesn't have its fans among bomb disposal experts serving in Iraq.

"While it was sexed up quite a bit, I really enjoyed it," said Tech Sgt. William Adomeit, 31, of Las Vegas, Nevada. Adomeit saw the movie for the first time at his base in the southern Iraqi town of Nasiriyah.

Other than the best picture prize, the movie earned five more Oscars, including best director honors for Kathryn Bigelow—the first woman in the 82-year history of the Academy Awards to earn Hollywood's top prize for filmmakers.

In this Feb. 27, 2010 photo, senior Airman Bryan Bell, 22, Erie, Pa., part of a U.S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team attached to the U.S. Army's 4th Brigade 1st Armored Division, carries explosives he will use to detonate a weapons cache that was turned over to them by an Iraqi informant on Saturday, in an area near Forward Operating Base Hunter in Maysan Province, Iraq.

AP

Japan dolphin hunt town shrugs off 'Cove' Oscar

By JAY ALABASTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TAIJI, Japan (AP)—The gala crowd in Los Angeles cheered as "The Cove" won the best documentary Oscar with its grisly portrayal of dolphin hunting. Half a world away, residents of the small Japanese village shown in the film abhorred the attention and said it won't end their centuries-old tradition.

In Taiji on the rocky coast of southwest Japan, residents gathered in whale eateries with names like "Tail" and rolled their eyes Monday when told of Oscar laurels for the film, which they see as yet another biased foreign take on their culture.

The village of 3,500 people has been hunting dolphins and whales since the early 1600s. It calls itself "Whale Town" and has a massive pair of whale statues looming over the main road. "The Cove" refers to Taiji and its dolphin fishing as "a little town with a really big secret," but local councilman Hisato Ryono said there is nothing to hide.

"Everyone around here knows about it. The water nearby turns red during the hunt. The actual killing is done in a concealed area because it is unpleasant to look at, as is true of killing cows or pigs or any other animal," said Ryono, who says he was tricked into appearing in the film.

AP

A dolphin demonstrates a flip at a dolphin pool in Taiji, southwestern Japan, where visitors can play with the animals Monday, March 8, 2010.

"This is a close-knit group of fishermen. The more they feel squeezed, the more they will close off to outsiders. They won't stop this hunt because of such pressure," Ryono said.

The Japanese government allows about 19,000 dolphins to be killed each year. Taiji hunts about 2,000 dolphins every year for meat—less than other places—but is singled out in part because of its "oikomi" method of herding and killing them near the shore.

Dolphins, in addition to being food, are also recognized in Taiji as crowd pleasers with their playful nature, leading to odd contrasts. Taiji fishermen capture some to sell to aquariums, and the area is dotted with ocean cages offering dolphin bonding sessions. "Dolphin Base" charges 2,000 yen ($22) for a 20-minute session less than half a mile from the cove where hundreds of the animals are stabbed and dragged ashore in the annual hunt.

Like most residents of Taiji, the dolphin trainers repeatedly avoided talking to a foreign reporter—one young woman ran away when asked her opinion. At the nearby Dolphin Resort, a modern hotel complex with its own dolphin pool, manager Kiyo Ikeda agreed to be interviewed, as long as there were no questions about dolphins.

"We really don't get many foreign guests at this hotel," she said.

Many Taiji residents said they would no longer speak to foreign visitors on the record, after years of what they felt were one-sided articles and gory pictures shown out of context.

After the movie won, the town government issued a short news release.

"There are different food traditions within Japan and around the world," the statement read. "It is important to respect and understand regional food cultures, which are based on traditions with long histories."

The documentary, directed by Louie Psihoyos, follows Ric O'Barry, a trainer for the 1960s "Flipper" TV series who says he became an activist because of a suicidal dolphin in his charge. The film team broke into a restricted area to set up cameras that captured the slaughter.

The Cove has not yet been released in Japan, but it will start showing here in June at 20 to 30 theaters nationwide. It was shown at the Tokyo International Film Festival in October, where viewers gave it mixed reviews.

Several Japanese who appear in the film, including Ryono the councilman, and Tetsuya Endo, an associate professor at Health Sciences University of Hokkaido, say they were lied to about its subject matter beforehand.

Endo, clearly angry when reached by telephone Monday, said he is considering legal action.

"I feel that they should have declined the award," he said.

Japanese government officials defended the fishermen's right to hunt dolphins and called the film unbalanced.

"There are some countries that eat cows, and there are other countries that eat whales or dolphins," said Yutaka Aoki, fisheries division director at the Foreign Ministry. "A film about slaughtering cows or pigs might also be unwelcome to workers in that industry."

Waltz goes from Hollywood unknown to Oscar winner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Christoph Waltz was honored as best supporting actor at the Academy Awards for his portrayal of a World War II Nazi with a gleeful taste for evil in "Inglourious Basterds."

AP

Christoph Waltz accepts the Oscar for best performance by an actor in a supporting role for "Inglourious Basterds" at the 82nd Academy Awards Sunday, March 7, 2010, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

The Austrian actor's portrayal of German Col. Hans Landa called on him to give a despicable man an element of unlikely charm and to spew out director and screenwriter Quentin Tarantino's rapid-fire dialogue in four languages.

Waltz is a veteran TV and stage actor in Europe who had been virtually unknown in Hollywood. He was considered a shoo-in for the Oscar after sweeping this season's other awards, including Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild trophies, and critics' group honors.

"Oscar and Penelope. That's an uber bingo," Waltz said as he accepted his trophy from presenter Penelope Cruz Sunday night. He lauded Tarantino as a "fearless explorer" who directed the film masterfully, adding, "and that's why I'm here."

Backstage, Waltz was asked about his experience with the American awards season.

"It's mind-boggling. It's fantastic. It's very intense ... and tomorrow I'll probably be sorry it's over," he said.

"Inglourious Basterds" received other top Oscar nominations, including best picture, but Waltz was the only cast member to get a bid and won the only Oscar. The film's stars included Brad Pitt—whose Nazi-hunting character, in one graphic scene, carves a swastika into Landa's forehead.

In the Austrian capital of Vienna, a packed movie theater showing a live Oscars broadcast went wild when Waltz's name was announced in the early hours of Monday morning.

"It's a great success for Austria," said 46-year-old Christian Foessleitner.

Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann was among the first politicians to congratulate Waltz.

"This Oscar Christoph Waltz received is yet another highly deserved distinction for an exceptional actor from Austria," Faymann said in a statement noting that Waltz is one of only a few Austrians to have made their mark on international film history in this way.

Announcement of Death

Beatrice Borja Peredo Troup

"Familian Dasu"

June 23, 1959—March 6, 2010

Passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 6, 2010.

A Memorial Service to celebrate her life will be held at a later date.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Mike Troup and Family

Message of Appreciation

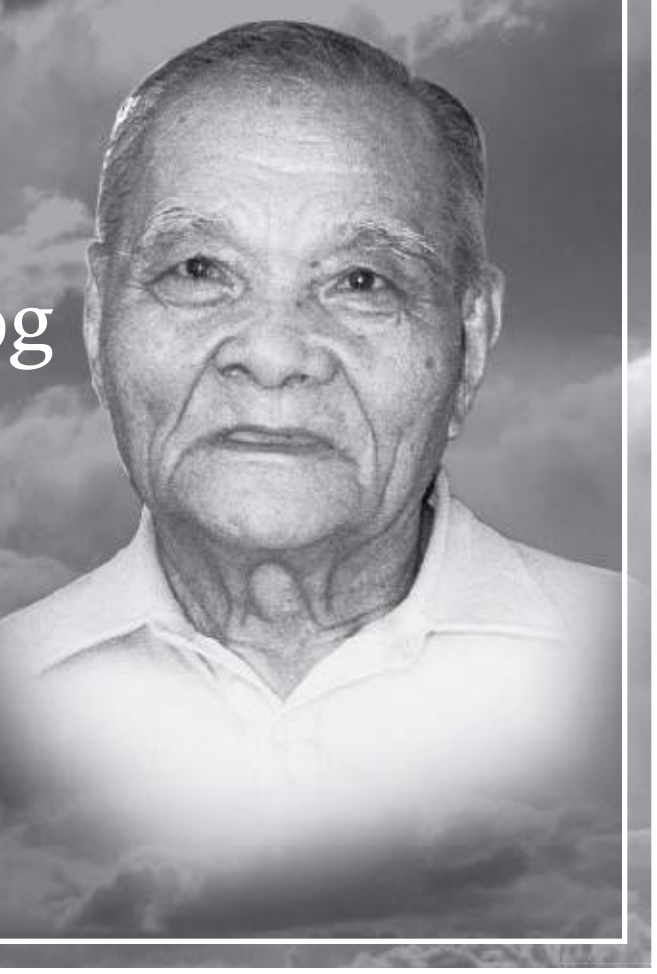
From the family of the late

Tito Songao Hocog

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation to our relatives and friends who surrounded us with your love, prayers, kindness, and support. Your words of encouragement and thoughtful gestures have consoled our hearts in such a difficult time.

May God bless you for all that you've done for us.

The Family



JFK condolence letters published for 1st time

By HOLLY RAMER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP)—Among the 1.5 million condolence letters sent to President John F. Kennedy's widow after his assassination in 1963 were more than two dozen from Jane Dryden, a dogged and dramatic 11-year-old who churned out a letter a week for six months straight.

"I know that you hate the whole state of Texas. I do to," she wrote to Jacqueline Kennedy from Austin in January 1964. "I wish I lived in Washington, D.C. where maybe I could maybe see you standing on your porch. I am determined to move there as soon as I can. I would feel safer there."

Given the overwhelming volume of mail—800,000 letters in the first seven weeks alone—most of the condolence letters were destroyed. But at least one of Dryden's notes ended up among the 200,000 pages that were sent to the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, where they sat largely ignored until historian Ellen Fitzpatrick decided to write "Letters to Jackie: Condolences From a Grieving Nation."

The book, released last week by HarperCollins, includes more than 200 never-before published letters divided into three categories: vivid recollections of the day Kennedy was killed; letters that express views on society, politics and the presidency; and personal experiences of grief and loss.

Larry Toomey of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, didn't even wait until Kennedy's death was announced before starting his letter.

Historian Ellen Fitzpatrick is the author of "Letters to Jackie: Condolences From a Grieving Nation." AP

"My dear Mrs. Kennedy, Even as I write this letter, my hand, my body is trembling at the terrible incident of this afternoon. I am watching the CBS-TV news report. No official word as yet."

Writing two days later, eighth-grader Mary South described learning that the president had been shot just as she sat down to play the church organ at her Catholic school in Santa Clara, California.

"I tried to tell myself he would be all right but somehow I knew he wouldn't. ... the tears wouldn't stop. The slightly damp keys were hard to play but I offered it up that the President might live," she wrote.

In return for her letter, she received a small card printed with the words "Mrs. Kennedy is deeply appreciative of your sympathy and grateful for your thoughtfulness."

"Getting that back felt like: She saw this. Jackie saw this," South, whose married name is Mary Certa, said in an interview Thursday. "I felt good that I had done something. I just wanted her to know how upset we were and how helpless we felt."

When one of Fitzpatrick's researchers called and read her letter, "I started to cry all over again," said Certa, 60, of Campbell, California. "It was like I was right back there in 1963."

Fitzpatrick was at the Kennedy library researching a different book when she asked to see some of the condolence letters in hopes of getting a sense of how Kennedy was perceived by Americans in his own time. As soon as she started reading, she was hooked.

"It was like the roof came off the building, the walls dropped away, the floor came out from under me. I was absolutely floored by what I'd begun to read," she said Friday. "I have been teaching American history for 30 years, and I'm not sure I've ever seen a collection as powerful and that represented so many ordinary people speaking from the heart about their views about American society, and politics, and the president."

Fitzpatrick, a University of New Hampshire professor, soon discovered why the letters had never been published: she would have to get permission from each writer before including it in the book. But after she whittled down her list of favorites from 3,000 to 240, only five of the 220 or so she was able to track down declined to be included.

"There have been so many books about the Kennedy assassination. We've heard from the experts, we've heard from the conspiracy theorists, we've heard from people in the Kennedy administration, but here are the voices of those voiceless, everyday Americans," said Fitzpatrick, who said she was surprised at the eloquence of the writers, no matter how uneducated or young.

"I'm just an average American—average mentality, average housewife, average housing, average size family, a year younger than you and perhaps a little more sensitive than some, but I will always have a warm spot in my heart for both of you as long as I live," wrote Marilyn Davenport of New York, who included her phone number "if you ever want to talk."

Barbara Rimer was 15 when she wrote "I promise you that I will give body and soul to perpetuate the very ideals President Kennedy lived for."

Rimer, now dean of the University of North Carolina's Gillings School of Global Public Health, didn't even remember writing to Mrs. Kennedy until contacted by Fitzpatrick.

"When I read it, I thought, 'Wow, was I naive!' I don't know how many people write letters to the president today or to Michelle (Obama), but it seemed incredibly naive," she said.

But Rimer also realized that she has kept her promise to Mrs. Kennedy through her career in public health and by encouraging students to give back at the local, national and global level.

"When I saw this letter, it made me realize how long I've been on a path I really wasn't aware I was on, so I'm really grateful to the author of this book for kind of giving me back a piece of my history," she said.

For Jane Dryden Louis, author of the weekly letters, the assassination coincided with her growing awareness of the world outside her neighborhood. She remembers being drawn to the drama and pageantry of the Kennedys, and the tragedy as well. After the assassination, she set up an altar with candles in her bedroom, and she and her friends pretended to be Jacqueline, Teddy and Bobby Kennedy.

"They say I look like you, too, although I am blonde and wear glasses," she wrote to Mrs. Kennedy.

As an adult, Dryden Louis, who still lives in Austin, has worked as pastoral minister, helping families prepare for a loved one's death.

"I can almost still recognize a piece of myself that's drawn to be in relationships with people in that sort of deep and tragic but very rich context," she said. "It's still me."

One of the shortest letters came from Martin Rosenberg, a student at the University of Massachusetts who wrote: "Dear Mrs. Kennedy: I have never seen our football players cry ... but today, they did."

Utah funeral service held for Marie Osmond's son

PROVO, Utah (AP)—Marie Osmond's 18-year-old son was remembered at a funeral service Monday with fond words, laughter and music from his famous singing family.

Michael Bryan's uncle, Donny Osmond, also appealed to God in an opening prayer.

"Bless my sister," he said, breaking into tears. "Bless my sister and her family."

Bryan was then memorialized by six of his seven siblings as a lighthearted person and a deep thinker who had a brilliant sense of humor and a kind, generous heart.

"He was a man of his word. He wasn't a talker, he was a doer. He was reliable," Bryan's sister Rachel Blosil, 20, said, struggling to express herself through tears. "He knew my hopes, he knew my dreams, my secrets, things that nobody knows. He was my best friend."

Police in Los Angeles have said Bryan died Feb. 26 from an apparent suicide after jumping from the eighth floor of the Metropolitan apartment building. An official cause of death is pending the results of an autopsy and toxicology tests.

Police said Bryan left a note but have provided no details about its contents.

One of five children adopted by Marie Osmond, Bryan previously used his adoptive father's last name, Blosil. Records from Utah's 4th District Court, however, show a judge had granted him an October 2009 petition for a legal name change.

AP

President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Thomas Monson, left, comforts singer Marie Osmond before a graveside service after the funeral of her son Michael Bryan in Provo, Utah on Monday, March 8, 2010.

Marie Osmond and Brian Blosil divorced in 2007 after two decades of marriage. She also has three other children from marriages to Blosil and first husband, Stephen Craig, whom she divorced in 1985.

In 2007, Marie Osmond said her son had entered a rehabilitation facility but did not disclose what he was being treated for.

About 450 mourners attended Monday's services at a chapel near the Provo temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including church President Thomas S. Monson, who offered words of comfort to the family.

Bryan was a first-year student of apparel manufacturing at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising and had planned on a career in retail marketing and design, according to a biography of his life read by the family's Henderson, Nev.-based church bishop, Gary C. Milne.

The life sketch, a traditional part of Mormon funeral services, described Bryan as a hardworking, self-motivated person who loved sports, the arts, traveling and a good meal—from sushi to Peking duck and Italian pastas. An accomplished musician, Bryan played five instruments and wrote his own songs. He was also dedicated to service and since high school had been working with special needs children, Milne said.

In sharing their memories, Bryan's siblings painted a portrait of a close-knit family, where laughter and music—along with whipped cream fights in the family kitchen and other games—were often present, with Bryan at the center of the fun, despite his sometimes quiet manner.

Lil Wayne begins one-year jail term in NYC gun case

NEW YORK (AP)—After saying goodbye on concert stages and online video streams, Lil Wayne had nothing to add as he was sentenced Monday to a year in jail for having a loaded gun on his tour bus.

The Grammy Award-winning rapper delivered only a brief bow to fans and supporters as he was led out of a courtroom in handcuffs to start serving his sentence.

With that, Lil Wayne headed off to face his punishment in a case that had shadowed him as he became one of music's most prolific and profitable figures in recent years. Arrested in July 2007, he pleaded guilty in October to attempted criminal possession of a weapon. He admitted he had the loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun on his bus.

His lawyer, Stacey Richman, said the rapper was resolute as he was taken away.

"He knew what he had to do, and he's doing it," she said.

Lil Wayne will serve his sentence in the Rikers Island jail complex. Richman said she expected he would be held in protective custody, but the city Correction Department said it was still deciding on that. Protective custody is given to inmates who, for a variety of reasons including notoriety, require separation from the general prison population.

The 27-year-old rap star could be released in about eight months with good behavior.

Lil Wayne, born Dwayne Carter, is going behind bars with his career in full throttle. His "Tha Carter III" was the best-selling album of 2008 and won a Grammy for best rap album. His latest album, "Rebirth," was released last month.

He made a point of leaving fans with fanfare, from a "farewell tour" in recent months to a series of videos on the Web site Ustream on Sunday.

"Law is mind without reason ... I'll return," he wrote on his Twitter account Monday morning.

Dozens of fans jockeyed with photographers waiting on the courthouse steps Monday afternoon, cheering as Lil Wayne, fellow rapper Birdman and others arrived. Shouts of "Oh, man" and "Keep your head up, Weezy!"—a nickname he often uses—erupted in the courtroom as he was sentenced.

Placido Domingo has surgery for colon cancer

By RONALD BLUM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Placido Domingo underwent surgery last week to remove a cancerous polyp from his colon and is expected to make a full recovery, his spokeswoman said Monday.

The 69-year-old Spanish tenor had surgery last week at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and was released Sunday, spokeswoman Nancy Seltzer said.

The malignancy was localized, and the operation was laparoscopic, a minimally invasive procedure in which a small incision is made in the abdomen, Seltzer said.

Doctors have ordered Domingo to rest for six weeks, Seltzer said in a statement.

It's anticipated that he'll return April 16 with a performance of Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra" at Milan's Teatro alla Scala, she said.

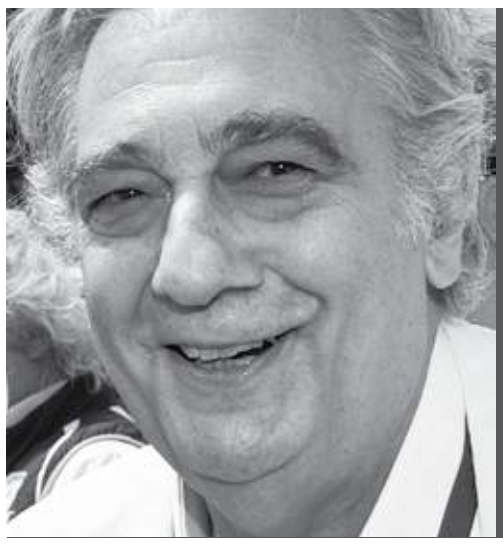
"His exact return to his performing engagements remains subject to how fast he can heal and regain his characteristic strength," she said.

In addition to singing and conducting, Domingo will continue as general director of the Los Angeles Opera and the Washington National Opera.

After completing a run of "Simon Boccanegra" at New York's Metropolitan Opera on Feb. 6, where he took on a rare baritone role, Domingo traveled to Japan and felt abdominal pain during performances in Tokyo in Feb. 13-14, Seltzer said. He then returned to New York for surgery.

Considered among the most accomplished tenors, Domingo has sung 130 roles. He is scheduled to sing Pablo Neruda in the world premiere of Daniel Catan's "Il Postino" at the Los Angeles Opera on Sept. 23.

While he will miss singing Boccanegra at the Zurich Opera on March 23, his performances of the Verdi tile role remain scheduled in Milan, at London's Royal Opera opening June 29, and at Madrid's Teatro Real starting July 22.



In this July 26, 2009 file photo tenor Placido Domingo pose on the grid prior to the start of the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit near Budapest, Hungary.

AP

Roman Polanski's wife says husband's jailing changed her

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Roman Polanski's wife said her husband's imprisonment in a 32-year-old sexual abuse case has diminished her carefree spirit and terrified and disoriented the couple's two children.

But Emmanuelle Seigner, 43, also said in an interview with the Polish magazine Viva! that she's convinced "the matter will be solved."

The interview appears in the newest edition of the colorful celebrity magazine and includes a photo layout of the actress and singer in high heels and a glittery dress, and other attire.

The director was initially accused of raping a 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a 1977 modeling shoot. He pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse, then fled to France on the eve of sentencing in 1978.

Polanski, 76, is under house arrest in his Swiss chalet in Gstaad as he fights extradition to the United States.

"I am no longer such a carefree person, I am no longer the same Emmanuelle," Seigner said.

Seigner said that she and the children do not live with Polanski in Gstaad but visit as often as they can.

D'Angelo accused of soliciting prostitute in NYC

In this Jan. 4, 1996 file photo, R&B singer D'Angelo, right, pose for pictures after announcing nominees for this year's 38th Annual Grammy Awards during ceremonies in New York.

AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Authorities say D'Angelo was caught in New York City trying to pay $40 for sex with an undercover cop posing as a prostitute.

Police said Monday that the 36-year-old R&B singer was arrested early Saturday while behind the wheel of his Range Rover.

D'Angelo's real name is Michael Archer. He says in a statement that he pleaded not guilty and plans to fight the charge.

The statement says the singer hopes the public will "allow the American justice system to resolve the matter before jumping to any conclusions."

Argentine president celebrates local film's Oscar

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentine President Cristina Fernandez is congratulating the director and actors of the "The Secret in Their Eyes," a local film that won the Oscar for best foreign-language film.

Fernandez called the film "a fantastic movie that I saw twice and that had a real impact on me."

The movie portrays the activities of the Argentine Anti-communist Alliance. That "Triple A" death squad has been connected to the deaths and disappearances of 1,500 people during the 1974-76 rule of former Argentine President Isabel Peron.

The film was directed by Juan Jose Campanella, who also directed the movie "Son of the Bride," which was nominated for best foreign film in 2002.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Suburban NY mayor says 'SNL' got her city wrong

PEEKSKILL, N.Y. (AP)—A suburban New York mayor wants to correct the record after "Saturday Night Live" made fun of her city. First, Peekskill isn't upstate. Second, it's not a hellhole. The city of 24,000 residents was mentioned on the NBC comedy show Feb. 27. An actor playing Gov. David Paterson said he planned to tour "upstate New York—hellholes like Plattsburgh and Peekskill." He said residents there are "rock eaters" and "freaks." Mayor Mary Foster pointed out Monday that Peekskill is in Westchester County, just north of New York City. She says Peekskill has a scenic setting and a vibrant art community. The mayor and supervisor of upstate Plattsburgh also aren't amused by "Saturday Night Live." Paterson has criticized the show in the past for making fun of his blindness. NBC has declined to comment.

Brooke Burke joins Tom Bergeron on 'Dancing'

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Bergeron will have his own partner when "Dancing With the Stars" returns later this month. Former series winner Brooke Burke will be his co-host. Bergeron announced the change on ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday. As a contestant, Burke won during the season that ended in November 2008. She has hosted TV shows including CBS' "Rock Star" and E!'s "Wild On." Contestants this season include former "Baywatch" babe Pamela Anderson, reality star Kate Gosselin, astronaut Buzz Aldrin and Olympics figure skating gold medalist Evan Lysacek. The new season begins March 22.

Sentencing in Reno in Girls Gone Wild bribe case

RENO, Nevada (AP)—A Hollywood associate of Joe Francis will be sentenced in Reno for his role in the bribery of jail guards to help the Girls Gone Wild founder while he was being held on tax evasion charges in 2007. Aaron Weinstein originally faced a bribery charge but agreed to plead guilty to a lesser charge of providing contraband in prison. A federal jury earlier acquitted one former Washoe County deputy, Michon Mills, of bribery charges after she was accused of accepting nearly $10,000 in gifts from Weinstein. Another ex-deputy, Ralph Hawkins, was sentenced in December to three years probation and fined $4,000 for accepting cash and tickets to Raiders games from Weinstein. The sentencing is set for later Monday.

Galifianakis shaves his beard while hosting 'SNL'

NEW YORK (AP)—While hosting "Saturday Night Live," Zach Galifianakis covertly shaved his trademark beard. The 40-year-old comedian slipped backstage while the show's musical guest, Vampire Weekend, performed. When Galifianakis emerged for the next sketch, his shaggy, reddish beard was gone, with a mustache in its place. When Galifianakis returned to wave farewell at the end of the show, he'd changed yet again, donning a fake beard much like his original. NBC posted a Web-only video on NBC.com and Hulu.com of Galifianakis rushing backstage and quickly shaving. Galifianakis, who co-starred in "The Hangover," has often made his beard a focal point in his standup and has rarely shaved it. In a 2008 interview, he joked: "I would shave, but then I look like Jodi Foster."

Too many cooks would spoil beloved mother-in-law's broth

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, Edye, was a wonderful cook and an accomplished hostess. Friends and family enjoyed being a part of her events, not only because of the food but also because she made everyone feel so welcome.

Before my husband and I were married, I met Edye for the first time at a dinner she hosted in my honor. Of course, I was nervous about meeting her and wanted to make a good impression. After the introductions, I followed her into the kitchen and offered to do what I could to help.

She smiled and said, "No thank you, dear. I like to do things my way," and then she pointed to a poem she had framed and hung on her wall. The title was, "Stay out of My Kitchen," and she told me it had come from your "Keepers" booklet.

Edye passed away two years ago, and the poem now hangs in my sister-in-law's kitchen. I think of my dear mother-in-law every time I see it. How can I get some copies of your "Keepers" booklet? I will be hosting a wedding shower for my niece and would like to use them as part of the gift bags I'm assembling for the luncheon.

STILL MISSING EDYE IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR MISSING EDYE: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother-in-law. From your description, she must have been a talented and special lady. I'm pleased Edye found my Keepers Booklet enjoyable, and I hope your guests will, too. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds), to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. You'll find it contains a collection of humorous and inspirational letters, poems and essays that were longtime favorites of my own dear mother—which is why she included them in an inspiring, easy-to-read booklet for anyone who needs a "lift."

The poem your mother-in-law framed is brief, polite and succinct—and here it is:

STAY OUT OF MY KITCHEN
by Susan Sawyer

Please stay away from my kitchen
From my dishwashing, cooking and such;
You were kind to have offered to pitch in
But thanks, no, thank you so much!
Please don't think me ungracious
When I ask that you leave me alone;
For my kitchen's not any too spacious
And my routine is strictly my own.
Tell you what: You stay out of my kitchen
With its sodden, hot, lackluster lures—
When you're here, stay out of my kitchen
And I promise to stay out of yours!

■ ■ ■ ■

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT: How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong—because someday you will have been all of these.

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

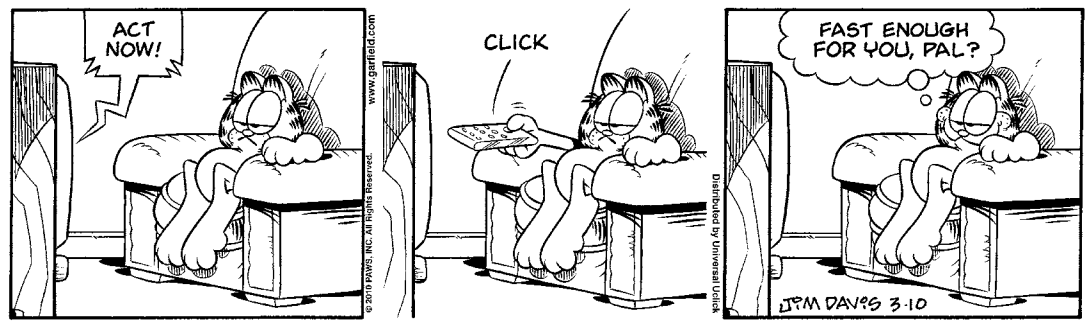
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

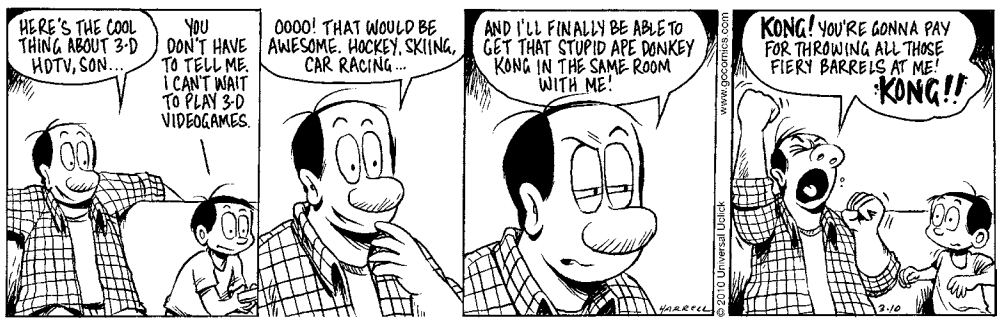
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HERE'S THE COOL THING ABOUT 3-D HDTV, SON...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME. I CAN'T WAIT TO PLAY 3-D VIDEOGAMES.
OOOO! THAT WOULD BE AWESOME. HOCKEY. SKIING. CAR RACING...
AND I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO GET THAT STUPID APE DONKEY KONG IN THE SAME ROOM WITH ME!
KONG! YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THROWING ALL THOSE FIERY BARRELS AT ME!
KONG!!
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
3-10

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SO, MR. FANG, WHY ARE YOU HERE TODAY?
I'VE BEEN FEELING NAUSEOUS LATELY.
EAT SOME GRASS.
THAT'LL BE $200.
NOW I FEEL NAUSEOUS.
SLAP!
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www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Dog's ID
4 Atlas component
7 Toothpaste container
8 Mosaicist
10 Young hooter
11 Preambles, briefly
13 Family tree member
16 "CSI" find
17 Cardiff's country
18 Writer Levin
19 Senate employee
20 Retain
21 Strong wagons
23 Dens
25 Night light?
26 Bankruptcy cause
27 Lennon's lady
28 Alpha's opposite
30 Eggs
33 Couch potato's handful
36 Nightclub
37 Southerner's speech trait
38 "In Memoriam," e.g.
39 On the — (at variance)
40 Raw rock
41 Born

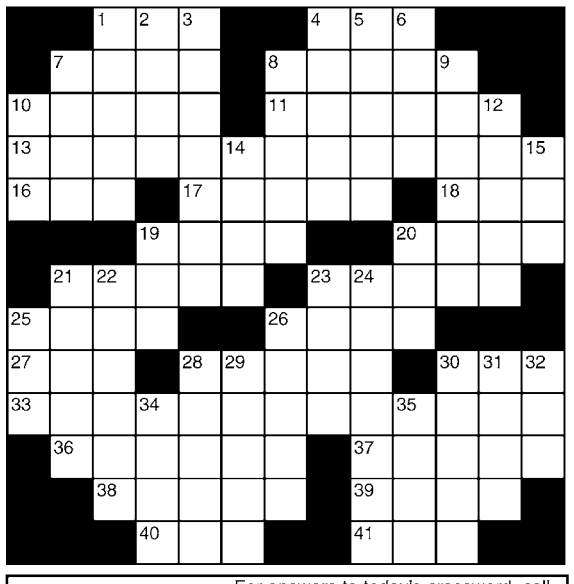
DOWN

1 Oklahoma city
2 Help in wrongdoing
3 Flee
4 Chop finely
5 Some choristers
6 Lima's land
7 Doppelganger
8 Championship
9 More optimistic
10 Peculiar
12 Begets
14 Rundown horses
15 Siesta
19 Zero-star review
20 DIY purchase
21 Bright star in Cygnus
22 Rent contributor
23 Building-block name
24 Leave in the lurch
25 Postal Creed word
26 Fake duck
28 Playful water critter
29 Combine, traffic-wise
30 Give a speech
31 Wedding exchange
32 Every iota
34 Norway's capital
35 Authentic

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	T	A	N	■	M	A	Y	■	M	O	S	S
T	Y	R	O	■	E	G	O	■	O	R	C	A
A	K	I	N	■	D	O	U	G	H	B	O	Y
R	E	D	F	L	A	G	■	M	A	S	T	S
■	■	■	A	I	L	■	Y	A	W	■	■	■
E	L	A	T	E	■	J	A	C	K	A	S	S
T	E	D	■	■	J	A	M	■	■	N	E	O
C	A	S	H	C	O	W	■	N	A	T	A	L
■	■	■	E	O	N	■	W	O	N	■	■	■
O	U	N	C	E	■	V	A	R	N	I	S	H
B	R	E	A	D	B	O	X	■	A	R	E	A
O	A	S	T	■	A	L	E	■	L	O	T	S
E	L	S	E	■	M	E	N	■	S	N	A	P

Yesterday's answer 3-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carrie Underwood, 27; Jon Hamm, 39; Sharon Stone, 52; Chuck Norris, 70

Happy Birthday: Reach out to others and put your skills to work. You have more to offer than you realize and should be proud of your accomplishments. Business and personal partnerships will be enhanced if you are willing to work toward the same goals. Stabilization and greater security can be yours if you compromise. Your numbers are 3, 12, 16, 27, 32, 44, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep a low profile and you will stand a much better chance of getting things accomplished. An emotional moment with someone you work with or for will set you back or cause you to miss out on an opportunity to advance. Don't mix business with pleasure. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone from your past will offer you an opportunity. Your involvement in something that you believe in and the help you offer will raise your profile and your reputation. A stubborn attitude will cause problems at home. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't count on getting the help you need or the favors promised. Concentrate on the people you love most or the organizations you feel most akin to. At least, your efforts will make you feel good about yourself. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A partnership that offers you the opportunity to get involved in something that interests you will lead to a better position and future. It's important that you clearly state your concerns and what you need in return for your services. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Put more time and effort into your relationships. Your energetic approach to whatever you do will lead to impressive accomplishments. A business trip will allow you to show what you have to offer first hand. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The more you do with friends, peers and family, the better. Sharing your thoughts with people you trust will lead to opportunities and ideas. The more fun you make a project, the more help you will get and the sooner it will be completed. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your determination and effort will not go unnoticed. A physical problem must be taken care of immediately if you don't want it to spin out of control. Be careful while traveling. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop dreaming; concentrate on what's factual and you will be able to stay on course and accomplish what you set out to do. Present what you have to offer and you will get what you need to proceed. Don't let friendship get in the way. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You are likely to be criticized if you are too eager to share your thoughts and plans. Empty promises will be misleading and can cause you to lose valuable time and ruin a potential partnership. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Don't let your heart lead you in the wrong direction when so much is on the line. Pushing too hard will lead to opposition. Honesty will bring the best results. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put our heart and soul into ways to make more cash. Don't let red tape or institutions cause you emotional upset. Deal with matters as they arise and you will avoid feeling pressured, stressed and overwhelmed. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your good deeds for others will bring you benefits, experience and the opportunity to use your attributes or skills in a new way. Once you have proven how effective you can be, you will have the ability to earn more. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming and have your own way of doing things. You are outgoing and sensitive and can see possibilities that others cannot.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			2	1	8			
		5				2		
		9				6		
	1	8	9	6	4	5	2	
	4						6	
	7			2			3	
	5			9			4	
	3						8	
		1	3	4	6	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	3	7	4	9	2	8	5
2	8	7	5	1	6	9	3	4
9	4	5	3	2	8	6	7	1
5	2	4	8	9	7	3	1	6
7	3	8	2	6	1	5	4	9
1	6	9	4	5	3	7	2	8
8	5	2	9	7	4	1	6	3
3	7	1	6	8	5	4	9	2
4	9	6	1	3	2	8	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE ROLE OF A FILM DIRECTOR **Solution: 6 letters**

R	O	A	(T)	C	E	F	L	O	W	Y	T	O	L	P
C	E	(I)	W	E	I	V	C	S	T	O	H	S	L	S
R	(D)	T	D	N	X	I	O	I	K	L	L	A	C	E
(E)	D	R	A	U	N	P	R	R	S	C	C	R	L	T
A	I	L	A	E	T	O	E	R	P	E	I	S	I	T
T	A	E	M	M	H	S	E	R	C	P	C	L	P	I
I	L	A	T	T	A	T	T	N	T	R	A	C	F	N
V	O	S	U	E	C	E	A	C	E	I	D	E	A	G
E	G	A	T	A	L	M	G	E	E	C	S	L	C	T
R	U	E	R	A	R	E	N	A	H	J	S	E	T	S
U	E	A	S	O	G	P	D	A	N	L	O	B	O	I
T	H	P	F	I	L	E	I	T	I	A	L	R	R	T
C	A	R	E	A	V	R	E	I	V	O	M	I	P	R
I	E	K	Y	A	W	D	A	O	R	B	O	T	K	A
P	C	R	E	W	T	C	A	M	E	R	A	Y	N	S

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/10

Actor, Advise, Approve, Artist, Authority, Broadway, Call, Camera, Celebrity, Chair, Characters, Cinema, Clip, Creative, Crew, Delete, Dialogue, Drama, Edit, Expertise, Final, Flick, Flow, Idea, Manage, Movie, Performance, Picture, Place, Plot, Project, Repeat, Scene, Screenplay, Script, Setting, Shots, Skill, Stage, Studio, Take, Theater, View

Yesterday's Answer: Ambiguous

Treasury 8 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Part Time-Physical Therapist needed immediately! Must be licensed in the CNMI up to $35/hr Call Pacific Home & Health Care, LLC at 234-2273 or email at jobs@pacific-nurse.com for more information Applications and inquires are kept strictly confidential.

WHATZIT Solution:
On one's toes

FOR SALE

Limited time offer for 4 GB flash drive for only $9.99 at Sprockets & Rockets pls call 234 1425

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- JULIANA R. OLKERIIL and JUNIOR N. OLKERIIL, Defendants. : CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0596

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 15, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 004 B 44, situated in Tanapag, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,164 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 004 B 02 dated December 26, 1991, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-108, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, April 9, 2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 28th day of February, 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Bernadine P. Borja
P.O. Box 520149
Tinian MP 96952
Telephone No. 433-0353

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF BERNADINE PALACIOS BORJA AS GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF DENNIS PALACIOS BORJA, Minor Child, By: BERNADINE PALACIOS BORJA, Petitioner. FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0123T NOTICE OF HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the estate of the above-named minor children by Bernadine P. Borja Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court.

A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will held at the Tinian Superior Court on the 19th day of March, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent.
For $210.00 / month
Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

FOR SALE
CONSTRUCTION CO. & RESTAURANT
GOOD RECORD
Please call 483-1123

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v-. CECILIA NAPUTI RIOS, Defendant. CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0425 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susue, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by Messenter or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 30th day of December, 2008.

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

CAREFREE LAWN CLEANING SERVICE 285-6640

FOR HIRE TO SAIPAN & GUAM OR CALIFORNIA
- PHYSICAL THERAPIST
- REGISTERED NURSE

Please submit your resume at
MVN MARIANAS VISITING NURSES "HOME HEALTHCARE SERVICES"
"MEDICARE/MEDICAID CERTIFIED"
Gualo Rai , Middle Road. For more information call 323-6877

Wanted
People to work in the hotel industry!

Join the class just starting and get a good job while learning!

Everyone welcome—regardless of age or gender. The only requirement is a willingness to learn. Tuition aid available.

Northern Marianas Trades Institute

Call now! 235-6684

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TOW ONE TOE WON

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Find today's solution in this section

Mavericks top Timberwolves for 12th straight win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Shawn Marion had a season-high 29 points and 14 rebounds and the Dallas Mavericks stretched the league's longest active winning streak to 12 straight games with a 125-112 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday night.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Caron Butler had 23 for Dallas, which has flourished since acquiring Butler and Brendan Haywood from the Washington Wizards at the trade deadline.

The Mavericks (44-21) haven't lost since Feb. 16 at Oklahoma City and have climbed into second place in the Western Conference, not far behind the Los Angeles Lakers (46-18).

Al Jefferson had 36 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota in his return from a two-game suspension because of a DWI arrest.

Ryan Hollins added 13 points and nine rebounds for the Timberwolves, who committed 26 turnovers and lost their sixth straight and 12th in the last 13 games.

Things got testy in the fourth quarter when Hollins was ejected after hitting Nowitzki in the head with a forearm shot.

Nowitzki was not hurt on the play, but it was the second confrontation of the game for Hollins, who tangled with DeShawn Stevenson in the first quarter.

The Wolves trailed by eight with under five minutes to play in the fourth, but Sasha Pavlovic missed two free throws and Nowitzki hit four straight free throws after Hollins' ejection to put the game away.

Despite owning the Western Conference's worst record for most of the season, the Timberwolves have been surprisingly competitive against the powerful Mavericks this season. They won in Dallas on Feb. 5, then pushed the Mavs to the limit in a 112-109 loss at Dallas last week without Jefferson.

The Wolves' big man started strong in his first game back from the suspension, hitting his first five shots and scoring 11 points in the first six minutes of the game to help the Timberwolves take a 19-9 lead.

Nowitzki went to the bench with his second foul just over 90 seconds into the game, and the Wolves looked to be in good shape when Marion picked up his second foul later in the first quarter. But when Jefferson went to the bench for a breather, the Mavs ripped off a 15-0 run to take a 32-23 lead and were barely threatened the rest of the way.

With Nowitzki on the bench, veteran Eduardo Najera filled in admirably, hitting a couple of jumpers and flustering youngster Kevin Love with the trademark toughness and grit that has kept him in the league for a decade.

It's been that way for the Mavericks throughout this superb surge, with several role players coming up big in key situations. When shooting guard Jason Terry went out with surgery to repair facial injuries suffered in a collision with Timberwolves guard Corey Brewer last week, rookie Rodrigue Beaubois responded by averaging 21.0 points in the next three games to keep the team rolling.

Haywood did not play for the second straight game because of a tight lower back and Erick Dampier has been out 12 games with a finger injury, so the Mavericks have played more zone defense to make up for the lack of a big man in the middle.

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Shawn Marion, right, beats Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Love to the rebound in the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 8, 2010 in Minneapolis.

Cavaliers 97, Spurs 95

At Cleveland, Mo Williams made two free throws with 9 seconds left as Cleveland beat San Antonio without LeBron James.

Williams finished with 17 points for the Cavs, playing their second straight game without the injured James. The NBA's reigning MVP is nursing a tender right ankle and the Cavs are being extra cautious. Delonte West had 16 points and made a key steal in the final minute as Cleveland became the first team to reach 50 wins this season.

Manu Ginobili scored a season-high 38 points to lead the Spurs, playing their first game without guard Tony Parker. He's out six weeks with a broken hand.

Knicks 99, Hawks 98

At New York, the New York Knicks beat Atlanta for the third time this season when video replay showed Al Horford's basket came after the buzzer.

Wilson Chandler stopped Josh Smith's drive to the basket with seconds to play and the ball bounced out to Horford in the lane. Referees originally ruled his short jumper good, but replay clearly showed the light was on above the backboard with the ball still in his hands.

Danilo Gallinari scored 27 points and David Lee had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who won for just the third time in 15 games and temporarily avoided a franchise-record ninth straight losing season.

Smith had 25 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for the Hawks. Joe Johnson scored 22 points and Horford finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Hornets 135, Warriors 131

At New Orleans, Darren Collison had 16 points and a career-high 20 assists as New Orleans snapped a four-game losing streak.

Collison's assists total tied Phoenix's Steve Nash for the most in an NBA game this season.

Marcus Thornton and David West each scored 28 points for the Hornets.

Anthony Morrow made all six 3-pointers he attempted and had 28 points for Golden State, which tied a team season high with 13 3s. Reggie Williams also scored 28 points, while C.J. Watson had 12 points but missed a 3-point attempt that could have tied it in the final seconds.

Grizzlies 107, Nets 101

At Memphis, Tennessee, Mike Conley and Rudy Gay had 21 points each, and Marc Gasol added 19 points and 13 rebounds as Memphis withstood a second-half rally to defeat New Jersey and snap an eight-game home losing streak.

Memphis got help from DeMarre Carroll and Sam Young, who scored 10 points each, ending the Nets' three-game road winning streak.

Courtney Lee scored a career-high 30 points to lead New Jersey, while Devin Harris added 28. Reserve Terrence Williams finished with 14, and Brook Lopez scored 10 points.

Cavaliers resting James again

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James insists he's "good." The Cleveland Cavaliers don't want their superstar to play again until he's great.

James sat out his second consecutive game on Monday night against the San Antonio Spurs to rest a tender right ankle he twisted on Friday against Detroit. He missed Saturday's game in Milwaukee and the Cavs, who don't play again until Friday, are being extra cautious.

Cavaliers coach Mike Brown said in addition to having a bum ankle, James has some soreness in his back. However, it's nothing he couldn't play through, Brown said, and if this were the playoffs, James would be on the floor.

James did not take part in the morning's shootaround, opting to lift weights while his teammates went through preparations for the Spurs. As he left the building with a custom-designed Snuggie draped over his left shoulder, James was asked how he felt.

"I'm good," he said.

Earlier, Brown said it would be a game-time decision whether James would play, but it seemed both sides had agreed long before tip-off.

"This is an opportune time for him to get some rest," Brown said. "My gut feeling is that this is the right time for this to happen. He wants to play. He doesn't like sitting."

James was not available to reporters before the Cavs hosted the Spurs.

Cleveland is 0-7 in the past three seasons when James doesn't play.

"We miss a lot when he's not in there," Brown said. "He makes me look like I know how to coach a little bit better."

Brown said Cleveland's postseason seeding is not a factor in any decisions he makes about James, who is averaging 39 minutes per game. The Cavs have a five-game lead over Orlando for the best record in the Eastern Conference, and they hold a three-game advantage over the Los Angeles Lakers for the league's best mark, which would guarantee Cleveland home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

"If I was concerned about that, then I would've said, 'Tape that bad boy up against Milwaukee,'" Brown said. "He could play if it was a playoff game. With all the bumps and bruises he does have and the minutes he's logged ... I know he wouldn't say this, but his body has to be feeling the effects from playing all those minutes."

The Cavs can't survive long without James, but Brown is confident a few games won't hurt.

"This group is capable of winning games without him," he said.

Cleveland is still without center Shaquille O'Neal (thumb) but the Cavs got back guard Daniel Gibson, who missed four games after the birth of his first child.

Ping waives settlement on square grooves

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The 20-year-old Ping wedges with square-shaped grooves will no longer be allowed on the PGA Tour starting March 29 under an agreement reached Monday with Ping executives.

John Solheim, the chairman and CEO of Ping, said the Phoenix-based company is waiving its right that had kept the PGA Tour from banning Ping Eye2 wedges made before April 1, 1990 that have deeper, wide grooves no longer allowed under new USGA regulations.

Those wedges were allowed through a 1990 settlement from when Ping sued the PGA Tour and U.S. Golf Association. Phil Mickelson, Hunter Mahan, John Daly and Fred Couples were among players who used the Ping wedges. It had become such a divisive issue that Scott McCarron accused Mickelson of "cheating" by using the club.

"John Solheim and Ping had a terrific opportunity to do something very positive and significant for the game of golf, and we very much appreciate his willingness to take this action," PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said.

Ping also said it will apply the waiver to the U.S. Open.

The waiver takes effect the week after the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill and will apply on the PGA Tour, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. It will not apply to amateur competitions.

In return for the waiver, Solheim is hopeful equipment companies will have a stronger voice when the USGA makes new rules. The USGA will hold a forum this fall to improve the process of creating equipment regulations.

"I've been consistent in voicing my concerns over the last several years about the challenges of the current rule-making process and the needs to improve it to the benefit of golfers," Solheim said. "I am hopeful this will be a significant first step in realizing this goal. Our goal is to help ensure innovation remains an important part of golf's tradition."

Solheim worked with his father, Ping founder Karsten Solheim, when the settlement was reached in 1990 that allowed for the square grooves in Ping irons manufactured until April 1, 1990.

That settlement took precedence over new rules that changed the specifications in grooves, and eight players took advantage of the loophole. Daly and Dean Wilson were the first players to use them at the Sony Open. Daly said he had collected more than a dozen wedges, while other players found them in the garage or from friends. They even became a hot item on eBay.

McCarron was among those who said while the wedges were allowed, it violated the spirit of the rule, and the issue became messy at Torrey Pines in January when he told The San Francisco Chronicle, "It's cheating, and I'm appalled Phil has put it in play."

Mickelson hinted at a lawsuit for being "publicly slandered," although McCarron later apologized.

Steelers QB attorney: No sexual assault occurred

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga. (AP)—A high-profile defense attorney hired by Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on Monday disputed a college student's claim that the two-time Super Bowl winner sexually assaulted her at a Georgia nightclub.

The 20-year-old told police Roethlisberger, who had been out barhopping with friends, assaulted her early Friday. Roethlisberger has not been charged.

"The facts show that there was no criminal activity. No sexual assault occurred," attorney Ed Garland said in a statement Monday. "Ben is completely innocent of any crime."

Milledgeville police said at a press conference that they expect to interview Roethlisberger in the next several days. They said they have not taken a DNA sample from him but probably will.

Authorities also said the woman has hired an attorney, though they would not identify him or her. The woman's name has not been released.

They expect to interview about eight people and said they are reviewing video footage obtained from several businesses. They declined to elaborate.

"The investigation is ongoing. It would be premature to make any announcement at this time," said Fred Bright, district attorney for the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. "When the facts are in and a decision is made, we will let you know."

Milledgeville Police Chief Woodrow Blue, right, gives an update on the sexual assault allegations against Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger as Georgia Bureau of Investigations special agent Tom Davis listens on Monday, March 8, 2010, in Milledgeville, Ga.

AP

Roethlisberger, who owns a home about 30 miles north of Milledgeville on Lake Oconee, is also being sued by a woman who claims he raped her in 2008 at a hotel-casino in Lake Tahoe hotel and casino, an allegation he strongly denies.

Steelers President Art Rooney II said in a statement Monday that the team is closely monitoring the Milledgeville situation.

"All of us in the Steelers family are concerned about the recent incident involving Ben Roethlisberger in Georgia," the statement said. "We cannot comment on any of the specifics until law enforcement's investigation is concluded."

Garland, Roethlisberger's new attorney, previously represented rapper T.I. on a federal weapons charge and Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis in a murder case. More serious charges against Lewis were dropped and he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor obstruction of justice charge.

Canadian doctor says HGH was for him

TORONTO (AP)—A sports doctor at the center of drug investigations in Canada and the United States said Monday he treated Alex Rodriguez after the Yankees slugger had hip surgery last year and prescribed anti-inflammatories but not human growth hormone.

Dr. Anthony Galea also told The Associated Press an assistant who was stopped at the U.S.-Canadian border in Buffalo, N.Y., last year was carrying only a minuscule amount of HGH - which Galea said was for his own use. The doctor reiterated that he has never given the drug to an athlete.

"I only brought enough for her to do two injections into me because I was away for two nights," said Galea, who believes authorities and the media have exaggerated the accusations involving him and his practice.

"They made it look like I had 100 vials. I had one little vial and two doses were for me and you think that someone along the line would ask 'Well how much is there?'"

Rodriguez and other high-profile baseball players including Jose Reyes and Carlos Beltran have been contacted by U.S. federal investigators regarding Galea. Reyes and Beltran each say they did not receive HGH from Galea.

Rodriguez said last week he was "aware" of the investigation and plans to cooperate with the government. He declined comment again when asked about Galea after he left New York's spring training game Monday against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Galea said that he helped with Rodriguez's rehabilitation from hip surgery last March.

"He had a damaged hip. Inflamed. It was damaged," Galea said in an interview at his clinic. "He needed anti-inflammatories for his hip. I was basically helping in the rehab."

The Yankees released a statement last week saying they never authorized Galea to treat the slugger. If Rodriguez was treated without club consent, any attempt to determine whether he violated his record $275 million, 10-year contract, its guarantee language or baseball's collective bargaining agreement likely would hinge on whether treatment was elective or necessary.

"The statement we released last week stands," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said, refusing to elaborate.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig declined comment on Galea's remarks.

"We have our own department of investigations and we have our own procedures," he said before the Jackie Robinson Foundation's annual dinner in New York.

A message was left Monday seeking comment from Dr. Marc Philippon, who performed Rodriguez's hip surgery. Rodriguez's recovery also was monitored by sports chiropractor Mark Lindsay, who has close ties to Galea and worked for his executive health clinic. Lindsay's bio was posted on the Galea's Affinity Health Web site as recently as last week, but is no longer posted there.

A former doctor for the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts, Galea is known for using a blood-spinning technique—called platelet-rich plasma therapy—designed to speed recovery from injuries. Among the athletes he has treated are golfer Tiger Woods, swimmer Dara Torres and several NFL players.

He is facing four charges in Canada related to the drug known as Actovegin, which is used as another healing technique.

The drug, extracted from calf's blood and used for healing, is not approved for sale in Canada, but doctors can prescribe it if they inform patients about what it is. Using, selling or importing Actovegin is illegal in the United States; it is not banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency.

The 51-year-old Galea says that he's taken HGH - which is banned by the major sports—for a decade because it can improve the quality of life for people over 40.

He became the focus of authorities' attention last year when his assistant, Mary Anne Catalano, was stopped at the border. U.S. federal court documents say "20 vials and 76 ampoules of unknown misbranded drugs including Nutropin (Human Growth Hormone—HGH) and foreign homeopathic drugs" were found in a car Catalano was driving.

But Galea said Catalano only could have had a tiny, half-empty bottle or one ampoule of HGH. An ampoule is a small sealed vial which is used to contain and preserve a sample.

He displayed such a bottle in his office: It was smaller than an adult's pinkie finger.

"It's so small," he said. "If you're going to give it to an elite athlete they would need a minimum of three bottles of this a week for six months."

Galea was arrested Oct. 15 after a search warrant was executed at the Institute of Sports Medicine Health and Wellness Centre in Toronto. He is charged with selling Actovegin, conspiracy to import an unapproved drug, conspiracy to export a drug and smuggling goods into Canada.

U.S. court documents say Catalano waived her right to remain silent when speaking to border officers and admitted that she knew the items she was bringing into the U.S. were illegal and that she was doing it for her employer. She also told them that Galea admitted he had problems attempting to import the same items into the U.S. on previous occasions, according to the documents.

Catalano is cooperating with investigators and has a court hearing scheduled for Friday. Calvin Berry, her lawyer, said he's confident they'll drop the charges against her because of her cooperation.

Galea said the story of his case is being hyped up because some in the U.S. are resentful that a Canadian doctor is treating such high-profile athletes in Canada.

"There's reasons people put legs on it. Obama's trying to bring in a health care system like ours and the private sector is trying to say it's a lousy system. It doesn't look good if the icons of sports are coming up to a Canadian health care system," Galea said.

"They want a story and they got it," he said. "They already destroyed and embarrassed my children, embarrassed me."

Selig: Too soon to determine if HGH *test valid*

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball commissioner Bud Selig says it's too soon to determine whether a blood test for human growth hormone can be used for minor leaguers.

The United Kingdom Anti-Doping authority announced a two-year ban on Feb. 23 for rugby player Terry Newton, saying he had tested positive and was the first athlete suspended for using HGH.

Speaking Monday night before receiving a lifetime achievement award at the annual dinner of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, Selig said Dr. Gary Green, baseball's outside expert, and other medical staff were examining the data. Selig said the scientific experts haven't been able to give him a timeframe for their conclusions.

"I want them to come back and tell me what this means, and they already have said they can't do it right now, so there's no sense in me speculating, because I don't know," Selig said. "They've got a lot of work to do to determine the authenticity of it."

Selig can start blood testing on players with minor league contracts at any time. Testing on players on 40-man major league rosters is limited to urine, and rules can't be changed without an agreement with the players' association.

Baseball has helped fund the development of a urine test for HGH, but efforts of Dr. Don Catlin have been unsuccessful.

"We're doing it with the USOC and the National Football League," Selig said. "All of us are spending a great deal of money trying to find a test."

Selig wouldn't speculate on whether he would ask the union to accept a blood test for major leaguers.

"At this point in time, I just want our people to come back and tell me what it is," he said. "Then I'll go from there."

Selig, who retired Jackie Robinson's No. 42 for all major leaguers in 1997, was proud of his efforts on minority hiring since becoming commissioner in 1992.

"Without Jackie Robinson, there's no Hank Aaron, there's no Willie Mays, there's no Bob Gibson, there's no Willie Stargell. You can go on and on," Selig said.

Black players accounted for 10.2 percent of major leaguers in 2008, the most since the 1995 season, according to Richard Lapchick, director of the University of Central Florida's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sports. The sport had reached an all-time low of 8.2 percent in 2007, according to Lapchick.

"We just have to be very aggressive," Selig said. "We lost a generation maybe in the '60s and '70s."

Later, he told the crowd at the back-tie dinner: "We owe Jackie and will always owe Jackie an enormous amount of gratitude, for he truly made baseball the national pastime."

On another topic, Selig said he thought a report by IBISWorld last week that MLB's revenue will grow 4.5 percent to $6.9 billion this year was slightly lower than his hope.

"I'm doing the clubs one by one," Selig said. "It's a little premature to do that, but it's a goal that I have obviously. My goal is actually a little bit higher."

Baseball estimates revenue last year at $6.6 billion, up $100 million from 2008.

Other honorees included soprano Jessye Norman (ROBIE Humanitarian Award), and Willis Group Holdings PLC chief executive officer Joseph Plumeri and Unilever NV PLC chief executive officer Paul Polman (ROBIE Achievement in Industry Awards).

San Roque keeps head above water, beats G-Ballers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Roque remained at the top half of the team standings in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after beating G-Ballers, 7-5, on Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win was San Roque's ninth in 11 games, putting them in a three-way tie for fourth to sixth place with Ur Balls and Chura. The loss dropped G-Ballers to a 3-10 mark for 17th place in the 21-team field.

San Roque's defense shut out G-Ballers in the last three innings, lifting the former to a close win.

The game was tied, 5-all, after four complete innings. A two-run bottom of the fifth broke the deadlock, as San Roque scored two runs off G-Ballers' errors. The score remained unchanged when the best that G-Ballers could do were reached second base.

Tony Luzuma went 3-for-3 at bat for San Roque and tallied two RBIs. Paul Camacho was 2-for-3 and hit a solo homer in the first inning.

Berdax 14, Go For Broke 10

Berdax moved out of a slump, nailing a 14-10 triumph over Go For Broke.

The victory was only Berdax's second in 10 games, but it ended the team's three-game losing skid.

Ben Taisacan went 3-for-4 at bat and recorded two RBIs and two doubles. Asap Ogumoro and Aling Uludong also had two RBIS each on a similar 2-for-4 performance at the plate.

After a scoreless first inning, Berdax regained its form in the second, making eight runs en route to a four-run win.

6-Pack 19, Team Familia 5

6-Pack posted the easiest victory of the night, whipping Team Familia, 19-5.

The win came after only four and a half innings, as 6-Pack allowed Team Familia to score only in two innings.

Team Familia was without runs in the first two innings, while 6-Pack had an eight-run bottom of the first and added three more in the second for a commanding 11-0 lead.

Team Familia never recovered, as the best it could do was make four runs at the top of the fourth after a one-run top of the third.

6-Pack improved to an even 6-6 record, while Team Familia dropped to a 1-10 mark.

AGAPE

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ensuing play, giving possession back to SIS with Barry connecting on another bucket to grab the lead, 42-41, 22.7 second to go in the fourth canto.

When Agape regained possession, Mark Noel Puno made an entry pass to James Lixing, who then drew a foul from SIS' Greg Kim. SIS was not in the penalty yet, thus the Torchbearers went for an inbound and had a botched play when Lixing missed an outside shot, with 12 seconds left on the clock.

The Geckos controlled the rebound with John Chung passing the leather to Hunter Jewell, who was trapped at the wing, but managed to dribble toward midcourt. However, Jewell was not out of the woods yet, as Wang Jianjun and Zheng hemmed in the SIS guard anew.

Zheng then reached in and tapped the ball away from Hunter with the leather rolling near the baseline. Zheng picked it up and pulled up for a shot using the board to score his lone field goal and the most important basket of the game.

Lixing top-scored for Agape with 31 points and was named MVP during the brief awards ceremony. Barry led SIS with his 24 markers and was among the top players in the league.

Meanwhile, Agape deputy administrator Noel Puno congratulated the Torchbearers for winning the championship in their first season in the league.

"We would like to recognize the effort and hard work of our coach, Bill Sewell. We have only seven players on the team and Mr. Sewell was very patient with each of them, teaching them the basics of basketball. We would also like to commend the players for their good attitude and discipline in and off the court. To all the staff, parents, and students of Agape Christian School, thank you for all your support," said Puno, who was also the team's assistant coach.

Agape 43 – Lixing 31, Puno 6, Zheng 4, Wang 2.

SIS 42 – Barry 24, Halaby 10, Kim 6, Song 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-8, 15-14, 30-22, 43-42.

CLOSE

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TBK failed to regain the lead and the win when Kay Bernardo went only 1-for-4 at the stripe and committed a traveling violation underneath. Jun Pantaleon also muffed crucial charities.

TBK made one final attempt to come back when a triple from Melvin Capalad cut the lead to two, 92-94, with 15 seconds left in the game. However, Abuel was fouled and went 2-for-2 and when TBK regained possession, Capalad missed on a drive. Abuel was fouled anew and pegged the final score on another perfect trip at the foul line.

Abuel drilled 40 points, 22 in the fourth, while three other World Resort players scored in double figures. Mike Olaitiman tallied 22 and Rocyl Ritual and James Wabinga added 17 and 11, respectively.

In the first game, Bank of Guam survived Hard Rock Café and pulled off a two-point win.

Bank of Guam was in control of the match from start to third quarter, leading by more than 20 points on several occasions before Hard Rock recovered in fourth canto.

However, important baskets from Bobby Coldeen, Jeff Quitugua, and Charlie Peters saved the day for BoG.

Coldeen paced Bank of Guam with his 22 points, while Quitugua chipped in 21.

First Game

Bank of Guam 95 – Coldeen 22, Quitugua 21, Taisacan 19, Peters 11, Mendiola 8, Palacios 7, Pelisamen 6.

Hard Rock Café 93 – Tengco 30, Tiamzon 26, Mendoza 21, Paraiso 10, Mabutas 4, Nunag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-10, 54-21, 76-55, 95-93.

Second Game

World Resort/Advance 98 – Abuel 40, Olaitiman 22, Ritual 17, Wabinga 11, Tabamo 2, Navarro 2, Gayo 2, Apasan 2.

TBK 92 – Capalad 25, Bernardo 24, Pantaleon 20, Castro 14, Laquian 8, Mallari 1.

Scoring by quarters: 29-21, 43-55, 68-69, 98-92.

GARDNER

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will come here more prepared," the 34-year-old triathlete said.

Gardner said one his fiercest rivals will be inaugural XTERRA Saipan winner Mike Vine, who finished second last year after arriving on island, only a day before the race.

"Now I believe he is more ready. There is also Sasha (Wingerfield) and a couple of Australian and Japanese pros, who have been to various races before coming here so they are well prepared," Gardner said.

Gardner added this weekend's race will be his first major for the season and he is hoping to capitalize on his familiarity with the course to have a strong start.

The U.K. triathlete brought with him on Saipan compatriots Emma Ruth Smith and Michael Hiscott, who are excited to try the off-road race and meet local and other off-island triathletes.

"Coming here is more of a cultural exchange and racing is just a bonus. We are looking forward to an exciting experience so we can tell more stories back home," Hiscott said.

'Second coming'

Hiscottt said XTERRA Saipan Championships will be his first major triathlon race since coming out of a long break.

"I took a seven-year break from running due to injury and focused on swimming. I could say joining XTERRA Saipan will be my second coming and I hope to do well," the 26-year-old Hiscott said.

Hiscott and company arrived on Saipan on Monday and had a practice ride yesterday morning.

"I am more of a runner than a biker, so I tried some part of the mountain bike course today to get the feel of it. The course is okay, but the weather is hot. I came from the worst winter in U.K. so it's good that I came here early to get use to the weather," Hiscott said.

Though he is a good runner, having joined half marathons and other long distance raises, Hiscott said the run course in XTERRA Saipan will be much different, as most of it is off-road.

"I am more of a roadrunner, so we will see. Sam has already told me about the course and gave me a few tips and we will also check on the course tomorrow. It will be great to finish in the Top 10," Hiscott added.

Mountain bike expert

2009 XTERRA World champion and two-time XTERRA Saipan participant Julie Dibens will miss this year's weekend race, but will have her "student"—Smith—racing against the likes of five-time champion Renate Bucher and American Shonny Vanlandingham.

"I trained with Julie and we had several talks about XTERRA Saipan and how difficult and challenging the course is," said the 28-year-old Smith.

Unlike Gardner and Hiscott, Smith will be racing in the weekend event fresh from a series of triathlon and biking events in New Zealand.

"I was in New Zealand training and joining various races for two months. My strength among the three legs is the mountain bike. I am looking forward to cruising the beautiful island and the tricky trails," Smith said.

Smith has been in triathlon for only five years and believes she has to work more on running and swimming to fare well against the favorites in the Saipan race.

"It will be a big challenge to race against Renata and Shonny," said Smith, who was first a field hockey player and then turned to horse riding before switching to biking.

"I decided to do mountain bike racing because it's a low-impact sport, you don't get injured a lot," Smith said.

Meanwhile, the three UK triathletes would like to thank Tyce Mister, John Douglas, Dawn Hammermeister, Derek Chambers, and Joshua Berger for their providing them a place to stay and other assistance.

FALCONS

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miscues. The Falcons' fourth run was off Pangelinan's run on a fielder's choice.

Neither team scored in the fourth and fifth inning before a one-run single from first baseman J.R. Suel at the top of the sixth ended the Falcons silence and gave the team an 8-1 lead.

D-9ers logged only their second run of the game at the bottom of the sixth on Falcons' error at center field. In the seventh inning, both teams scored one run each and D9-ers threatened a comeback with a three-run bottom of the eighth to move within three, 6-9. Chris Camacho, John Acosta, and Ben Mesa scored one run apiece for D-9ers in the eighth inning.

At the top of the ninth, with the bases loaded and facing a full count, Pangelinan hit his target with the ball slipping through the hands of the D-9ers' second baseman and allowing Juan Tenorio and Tato Camacho to run to home plate to give D-9ers a 12-8 lead. The Falcons scored their first run in the ninth inning when catcher Rob Bansil was hit by a pitch and leadoff batter Ben Cabrera walked to home plate.

At the bottom of the ninth, Kapileo gave up two runs, but redeemed himself when he struck out D-9ers' next two batters. Falcons wrapped up the match when Bansil threw to second base and Sato Manalo tagged out Wally Emul.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	21	.656	–
Toronto	32	29	.525	8
Philadelphia	23	39	.371	17 1/2
New York	22	41	.349	19
New Jersey	7	56	.111	34

Southeast Division

Orlando	44	20	.688	–
Atlanta	40	23	.635	3 1/2
Miami	32	31	.508	11 1/2
Charlotte	30	31	.492	12 1/2
Washington	21	39	.350	21

Central Division

Cleveland	50	15	.769	–
Milwaukee	33	29	.532	15 1/2
Chicago	31	31	.500	17 1/2
Detroit	22	41	.349	27
Indiana	20	43	.317	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	44	21	.677	–
San Antonio	36	25	.590	6
Memphis	33	31	.516	10 1/2
New Orleans	32	32	.500	11 1/2
Houston	31	31	.500	11 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	42	21	.667	–
Utah	40	22	.645	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	38	24	.613	3 1/2
Portland	37	28	.569	6
Minnesota	14	50	.219	28 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	18	.719	–
Phoenix	40	25	.615	6 1/2
L.A. Clippers	25	38	.397	20 1/2
Sacramento	21	42	.333	24 1/2
Golden State	17	46	.270	28 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 97, San Antonio 95
New York 99, Atlanta 98
Memphis 107, New Jersey 101
Dallas 125, Minnesota 112
New Orleans 135, Golden State 131

NBA LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	63	641	494	1890	30.0
Durant, OKC	62	601	544	1838	29.6
Anthony, DEN	50	493	406	1437	28.7
Bryant, LAL	59	600	357	1634	27.7
Wade, MIA	59	548	401	1557	26.4
Ellis, GOL	52	520	244	1335	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	63	572	418	1594	25.3
Bosh, TOR	54	469	368	1312	24.3
Stoudemire, PHX	65	540	357	1438	22.1
Johnson, ATL	62	522	182	1330	21.5
Randolph, MEM	63	518	263	1309	20.8
Jackson, CHA	61	456	256	1261	20.7
Rose, CHI	62	537	195	1275	20.6
Evans, SAC	58	433	285	1180	20.3
Lee, NYK	62	531	196	1258	20.3
Billups, DEN	54	302	351	1079	20.0
Brooks, HOU	62	443	193	1235	19.9
Gay, MEM	61	467	230	1213	19.9
Boozer, UTA	59	463	225	1151	19.5
Kaman, LAC	57	458	192	1108	19.4

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	257	417	.616
Howard, ORL	393	657	.598
Hilario, DEN	332	560	.593
Gasol, MEM	352	606	.581
O'Neal, CLE	262	463	.566
Bynum, LAL	357	633	.564
Millsap, UTA	289	517	.559
Lee, NYK	531	956	.555
Boozer, UTA	463	837	.553
Horford, ATL	352	639	.551

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	64	224	623	847	13.2
Randolph, MEM	63	267	479	746	11.8
Lee, NYK	62	162	558	720	11.6
Camby, POR	58	188	483	671	11.6
Bosh, TOR	54	163	454	617	11.4
Boozer, UTA	59	131	532	663	11.2
Duncan, SAN	57	183	430	613	10.8
Wallace, CHA	59	124	496	620	10.5
Bogut, MIL	56	170	405	575	10.3
Haywood, DAL	60	237	367	604	10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	64	716	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	56	567	10.1
Rondo, BOS	60	593	9.9
Kidd, DAL	62	582	9.4
James, CLE	63	537	8.5
Davis, LAC	61	484	7.9
Westbrook, OKC	62	488	7.9
Harris, NJN	46	308	6.7
Wade, MIA	59	393	6.7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	6	0
World Resort	5	0
Aqua Resort	5	1
Fiesta Resort	4	1
AON/NJ Plus	3	2
Shirley's	3	2
Pacific Islands Club	2	2
Mobil	2	2
TBK	2	3
Pepsi	1	2
McGraw-Hill	1	3
Bank of Guam	1	3
Cell Pro	0	4
Docomo/SGH	0	4
Hard Rock	0	5

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	12	0
Man Amigos	12	1
Island Rebels	9	1
Chura	9	2
Ur Balls	9	2
San Roque	9	2
SaiPal	9	3
Freedom Air Flyers	8	4
Hitz	6	5
6-Pack	6	6
Calikano-Falcons	6	7
X-Terminators	5	7
Blazers	4	7
Go For Broke	4	9
Lancheros	3	8
Red Eye	3	9
G-Ballers	3	10
Berdax	2	8
Ramblers	2	11
Team Familia	1	10
Team Fuegu	1	11

2010 Winter Festival of Runs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the half marathon event in the 2010 Winter Festival of Runs sprint from the starting line at the American Memorial Park.

Saipan runners pose for a group photo before the start of the 10K race.

A group of runners smile as they near the finish line.

Two full marathon participants cruise along Beach Road.

A full marathon participant douses water on his head to cool off.

Three 10K runners head to the finish line at AMP.

Sixty-two year-old Hideaki Uryu grimaces as he nears the finish line for the half marathon event.

Seventy-year-old Teruko Matsuda celebrates after completing the 10K race.

Chang Wan Jang runs the full marathon barefoot.

Takeshi Aoyoma holds the tape after finishing first overall in the 10K race.

Mavericks top Timberwolves for 12th straight win

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Sports

Steelers QB attorney: 'No sexual assault occurred'

PAGE 25

Agape dethrones SIS in JV caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The title game between Agape Christian School and Saipan International School in the junior varsity division of the Coalition of Private School Sports Association Basketball League was not for the weak of heart.

The championship match was undecided in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter until Zheng Jing Wei hit the winning basket, making a bank shot underneath the basket as time expired, lifting Agape to a heart-stopping 43-42 win over SIS last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Torchbearers' victory dethroned the Geckos, who won last season's finals against Mt. Carmel School. Agape took the junior varsity title in its debut in the league.

The Bill Sewell-mentored Agape almost had the championship slip away, as the Torchbearers wasted a seven-point lead, 39-32, in the last 1:30 of the game and allowed Bo Barry to lead SIS' comeback bid.

A Barry fastbreak layup, his 10th point in the fourth quarter alone, moved SIS within one, 40-41, with 47.2 seconds remaining in the game.

Agape committed a turnover in the

See AGAPE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Agape Christian School players, coaches, and supporters pose for a group photo after winning the junior varsity championship in the private school caging against Saipan International School on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Falcons claw D-9ers, 12-8

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Action in the 2010 Saipan Major League baseball competition resumed on Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with the Falcons outclassing the D-9ers, 12-8, in nine complete innings.

Pete Teigita pitched in the first four innings, allowed only one hit, had one error, and gave up only one run to help the Falcons seize control of the game, 7-1, Closer Nunu Kapileo then took over from relief pitcher Timo Mafnas at the bottom of the ninth inning and struck out two to preserve the lead and the win.

On offense, designated hitter Mike Pangelinan led the Falcons, hitting 4-for-6 at bat and scoring three RBIs and one run.

The Falcons were ahead by only one run after two complete innings, 2-1. However, successive D-9ers errors at the top of the third allowed the Falcons to widen the gap, as the latter scored three runs off the former's

See FALCONS on Page 26

Gardner ready to defend title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

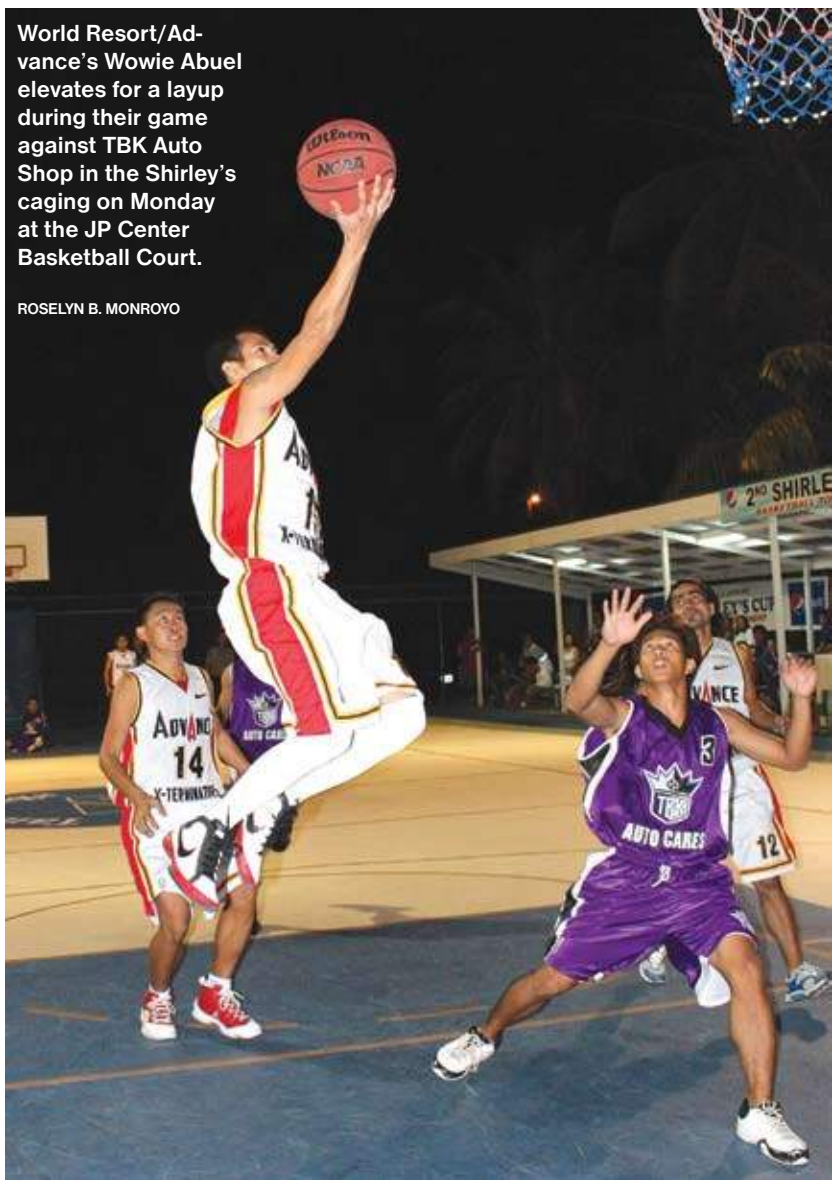
Defending champion Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom is in town, tagging along with him two fellow British triathletes who will be debuting in this Saturday's 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championships.

"It's nice to be back and experience again the hospitality and beauty of the island," said Gardner, who ruled last year's XTERRA Saipan Championships, timing in at two hours, 34 minutes, and 32 seconds.

"Definitely, I will go out there to defend my title, but I am sure it will be tougher this year, as I believed the field is stronger and other triathletes

See GARDNER on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
From left, Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica and United Kingdom triathletes Michael Hiscott, Emma Ruth Smith, and Sam Gardner pose for a group photo before an interview with *Saipan Tribune* at the conference room of the DFS Galleria Saipan yesterday.



World Resort/Advance's Wowie Abuel elevates for a layup during their game against TBK Auto Shop in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Close wins for World Resort/ Advance, BoG

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

World Resort/Advance kept its immaculate record, while Bank of Guam finally broke into the win column in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after thwarting separate opponents on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

World Resort/Advance improved to a 5-0 slate after defeating TBK Auto Shop, 98-92, in the second game. In the curtain-raiser, Bank of Guam slipped past Hard Rock Café, 95-93, giving the former its first win in five matches.

Wowie Abuel scored World Resort's last 10 points to keep the team's perfect record. His two free throws put World Resort in the lead, 90-89, after TBK went up by as much as eight in the fourth canto, 85-77.

After another TBK botched play, Abuel made it a 92-89 count off a layup, with 1:32 left on the clock. Abuel then went flawless from the foul line, going 6-for-6 to foil TBK's repeated comeback bids.

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